

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، والرأي.

Qasem arrives in Tunis

TUNIS (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Sunday arrived in the Tunisian capital to take part in the 91st ordinary session of the Arab League Council, due to convene here Tuesday. Qasem will also take part in the meetings of the six-man Arab ministerial committee, in charge of making contacts with the Lebanese parties to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis, which will be held here Monday. The foreign minister described the committee's meeting as very important because it will listen to some Lebanese political figures, including veteran former Lebanese presidents, prime ministers and parliamentarians. Following contacts with these people, the committee will submit a report to the Arab League Council, Qasem noted. Upon arrival in Tunis, Qasem was received by Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibi, Jordan's Ambassador to Tunisia Taha Al Hassan and ambassadors of Yemen Arab Republic, Iraq and Egypt. Later Sunday the committee held a closed session and listened to the committee's Chairman Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah on the outcome of his contacts in Beirut and Damascus.

Fahd, Hussein discuss Arab issues

BAGHDAD (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, which strongly backed Iraq during its eight-year war with Iran, held a second session of talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Sunday. The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said they discussed Arab and world developments highlighting "the positive role played by the Arab Nation and the Islamic World." King Fahd said on arrival Saturday on the first visit to Iraq by a Saudi monarch in 30 years that his talks would focus on the Palestinian question, Afghanistan and Lebanon. A Soviet Middle East expert, Vladimir Polyakov, had talks on the stalled Iraq-Iran peace talks and other Middle East issues with Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Baghdad shortly before the king arrived, Baghdad Radio reported. A Soviet embassy source said he could not confirm or deny that Polyakov, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department, was on a mission concerning the Afghan conflict. Diplomats said it was possible that Moscow was seeking Iraq's intervention with Saudi Arabia, which has supported the Mojahdeen rebels in their fight against the Soviet-backed Kabul government, to help to mediate a settlement in Afghanistan.

Volume 14 Number 4046

AMMAN MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1989, SHABAAN 20, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Al Hussein meets Arab financial experts

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Sunday heads of delegations to the meetings of pan-Arab financial institutions who concluded a meeting in Amman following extensive discussions of financial and economic issues of concern to the Arab World.

Present at the meeting was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who opened the meetings here Saturday, as well as Chief of the Royal Court Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's private advisor Amer Khamash and Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ibn Zaid.

King Hussein later received the Omani minister of economic and financial affairs who took part in the meeting. The minister relayed



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday receives at the Royal Court heads of delegations to the meetings of Arab financial institutions (Petra photo).

to the King greetings from Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

In a key-note address to the meeting, Prince Hassan called on the financial institutions to focus their attention on ways to develop Arab countries and to help

end their dependence on imported products from the industrialized nations.

Those taking part in the meeting were: The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (see story on page 3), the Arab

Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development.

Crown Prince highlights role played by Hashemites in the field of pluralism

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday said that the year 1988 witnessed a number of major historical events, including the Amman extraordinary Arab summit, the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the return of Egypt to the Arab fold, Iraq's victory in the Gulf war, the Arab summit in Algeria, Jordan's historic decision to sever legal and administrative relations with the occupied West Bank and the proclamation of the Palestinian state.

Addressing a symposium on political pluralism held under the auspices of the Arab Thought Forum, Prince Hassan highlighted the important role played by the Hashemites in the field of pluralism.

The Crown Prince stressed that the relation between nationalism and religion is not controversial, but a clear-cut one. He noted that the Hashemite family has contributed to the modern Arab awakening and to the intellectual Arab renaissance at the beginning of this century.

The Crown Prince linked pluralism with all aspects of integration among the Islamic, Arab and African societies.

He praised the role played by the Arab Thought Forum in highlighting political dialogue at the pan-Arab level, and advocated the possibility of holding dialogue between the various political parties without adopting pre-determined positions vis-a-vis the Arab citizens' concerns. "Such a dialogue is aimed at building an



HRH Prince Hassan integrated intellectual body and consequently an Arab political body.

Prince Hassan stressed the need for achieving comprehensive socio-economic development, saying that the social and developmental dimensions have led to the creation of new social entities, caused by the incoming democratic.

The Crown Prince described the emergence of the modern middle class, the new industrial class and the ensuing professional and vocational organizations as the most important changes which

have taken place recently.

"These new organizations," Prince Hassan said, "have contributed to creating social pluralism." However, he added, "the political regimes have failed to perceive this social pluralism and consequently to find the right and creative formula to address it within the framework of national unity and integration."

Prince Hassan called for open dialogue in discussing any issues, saying that "the contemporary Arab generation is no longer sensitive in recognizing the fact that there is inherited or acquired variance in the contemporary political societies."

He stressed the need for finding the appropriate and innovative formulas to translate this inherited or acquired variance into political pluralism.

Prince Hassan said political pluralism in its essence is "the recognition of legitimacy of social pluralism and the right of the social entities or communities to defend their legitimate interests within the framework of a peaceful formula that recognizes the same right for the other entities, without prejudice to the national unity and integration."

Ramadan working hours defined

AMMAN (Petra) — Office hours during the fasting month of Ramadan will be from 9.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m., according to a communique issued Sunday by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

The communique excluded government employees whose nature of work requires different hours, as special arrangements will be made for them by their respective department director.

Also Sunday another communique was issued, announcing that summer time will start on May 8, when the clock will be put forward 60 minutes.

Shelling ends Easter calm in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Gunners blasted rival sectors of Beirut on Easter Sunday, ending a brief respite from nearly a fortnight of daily artillery barrages.

Residents of the city, certain the morning calm was too good to last, had spent the hours piling sandbags around their homes and retrieving possessions from the rubble left by previous shelling.

Security sources said three shells fell near the Makassed Hospital in west Beirut, killing one person and wounding three. Two other people were injured in the western sector.

Rival forces also fought with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machineguns along the eight kilometre "green line" dividing the capital.

Radio stations estimated that nearly 5,000 shells were fired in a 12-hour barrage overnight which shook all Beirut, nearby villages and the Syrian-held Bekaa Valley to the east.

"The shelling was so intense that we didn't feel safe even in the shelters," one resident said. "It was horrible. Some areas look like they were hit by an earthquake."

Syrian forces and their allies have traded artillery fire with the troops of army commander Major-General Michel Aoun for 12 days, killing at least 87 people and wounding more than 284.

The fighting intensified after Aoun, who heads one of Lebanon's two rival governments, vowed Friday to drive Syria's estimated 25,000 troops from Lebanon even if the battle flared in Beirut.

Syria, which backs the civilian administration of Sunni Muslim Salim Hoss, rejected Aoun's threats and said the destiny of Lebanon was at stake.

Shammout appointed Higher Court chairman

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Sunday decided to appoint Rifai Shammout as Chairman of the Higher Court of Justice and Judge Ateeh Halasa from the Court of Cassation as prosecutor general of the court. At a session held Sunday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, the cabinet approved the unified allowances law of the municipal staff and the engineers' revised pension law.

It also approved the executive programme of cultural cooperation between Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

Uprising clouds Easter in occupied Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Christians prayed at the traditional burial place of Jesus in Jerusalem on Easter Sunday, but for the second successive year their mood was sombre rather than festive.

"This year and last year there is no joy or happiness because of the intifada (Palestinian uprising)," said Father Abid Zoomot, chancellor of the Latin Patriarchate.

Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah marched with other clergymen and pilgrims through the narrow, stone-covered lanes of the walled old city to the tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

But scouts playing drums were absent from the march and many foreign pilgrims stayed away. Arab hotel owners said their rooms were only half full.

"There are no celebrations," said 17-year-old Johnny Fallas, one of the 130,000 Arab Christians in Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "Inside we pray for peace for my country and the Palestinian people."

Fallas, a Greek Orthodox who helps out at the Roman Catholic Church, said he was among 23,000 Palestinians jailed by Israel during the 15-month uprising. At least 413 Palestinians and 17 Israelis have been killed in the

protests against Israeli rule.

Four Palestinians were wounded Sunday. Three were shot in clashes with troops in Gaza and the fourth was stabbed in a fight with his employer, a merchant at the Jewish open-air market in west Jerusalem.

Autopsy ordered after jail death

Measowhere Israel's supreme court ordered Sunday a new autopsy on a jailed Palestinian who, according to an army report, was found dead in his cell with his hands and feet bound, his family's lawyer said.

The initial pathological report said Ibrahim Yasser Al Natur, 32, committed suicide by hanging himself with a strip of blanket at Dahariya Army Detention Centre in the West Bank on Oct. 21, 1988.

Attorney Felicia Langer said the court told her it agreed to a new examination of the body of Natur, who had been on trial on charges of taking part in protests

and helping to set fire to a bus.

She also said the court gave her a military police report saying Natur's wrists were bound by steel handcuffs and his ankles by plastic restraints when his body was found on his knees in cell.

The initial report said there was a strip of cloth around his neck tied to a pipe overhead but made no mention of his hands or ankles being bound, she said.

"I had asked for the examination, which I hope will be next week, because of bruise marks which the family said were on the body when it was given to them for burial," Langer told Reuters.

"The family alleged that an arm was broken and I wanted to know why this was not in the report of the pathologists."

Military sources told Reuters there would be no immediate official comment because the affair was sub judice but the case might be re-examined following the new autopsy.

Lawyers for a prisoner who died in Jenin prison in July 1987 say an agent of the Shin Bet internal security service has since been tried in secret in connection with his death.

An investigation is also being held into the death of a Palestinian prisoner in a Gaza Strip prison earlier this month. The authorities said he died of a burst ulcer.

Egypt quiet on 10th anniversary of peace with Israel

CAIRO (AP) — The 10th anniversary of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty passed quietly Sunday amid a flurry of Arab diplomatic activity to reach a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The anniversary was unobserved in most government-controlled newspapers except in a column by Anis Mansour in Al Ahram newspaper. He wrote that after Arab countries had accused Egypt of treason when the treaty was signed March 26, 1979, they now agreed on the need for negotiations to peacefully end the conflict.

On Saturday, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and His Majesty King Hussein met with President Hosni Mubarak in the Suez Canal town of Ismailiya to discuss how to convene a U.N.-sponsored international peace conference which would pave the way for direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

And on Monday, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd was scheduled to arrive in Cairo for policy coordinating talks with Mubarak.



Rifai receives U.S. congressman

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Sunday reviewed with the visiting U.S. Congressman Thomas Campbell the recent developments in the region and the efforts made to establish peace in the Middle East. The meeting was attended by the American Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth and the U.S. delegation accompanying Campbell. The congressman arrived in Amman earlier Sunday on a two-day visit to Jordan as part of an orientation tour of the Middle East region. Campbell will meet with senior Jordanian officials, in addition to technology experts from Royal Scientific Society with whom he will exchange views on technology transfer and ways to promote the national economy, according to a press release issued by the American embassy Sunday (Petra photo).

PLO factions to meet Friday

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestinian commando leaders will meet Friday for talks that will include the uprising in Israeli-occupied territories and the U.S.-PLO dialogue, PLO sources said Sunday.

The meeting of the Central Council of the Palestine resistance movement, composed of about 100 representatives of all Palestinian factions, will take place in Tunis or Baghdad, they said.

The council groups Palestine Liberation Organisation leaders as well as radical groups opposed to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Meanwhile the PLO's chief spokesman said the talks last week between the PLO and the United States were serious, constructive and very important.

In a discussion on Channel 4 Television's World This Week programme Saturday, Bassam

Abu Sharif also said the PLO had opposition problems within the organisation "in the same way any government in the West" has problems with its opposition.

On Wednesday, representatives of Arafat and the United States met for the second time since December, when Arafat renounced terrorism and accepted Israel's right to exist.

Abu Sharif, Arafat's chief political advisor, said these talks were "very important."

Abu Sharif was asked if the PLO was in control of all its members.

"The PLO has a problem with the opposition in the same way any government in the West has a problem with its opposition," Abu Sharif said. "They have the right to express their point of view."

Arab Bank holds shareholders meeting

AMMAN — The Arab Bank's shareholders general assembly held its 59th meeting in Amman under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdul Majid Shoman, the bank's board chairman.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Radi Ibrahim, a Ministry of Industry and Trade official in charge of observing companies operations in Jordan and the bank's shareholders in various Arab countries.

The meeting discussed the bank's balance sheet and closing accounts and reviewed the bank's board of directors annual report (see page 5, 6 and 7).



Abdul Majid Shoman

AMF cancels IMF criterion

Arab funds pledge more money to bolster economic integration

AMMAN (R) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) has announced new money for trade financing and changes in interest rates to boost Arab economic prospects, delegates to an Arab financial conference said Sunday.

They said the AMF pledged to set up a pool of \$500 million to spur inter-Arab trade. The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) would add \$100 million to the fund and the Arab Banking Organisation \$25 million.

AMF head Abdullah Al Quwaiz, speaking in Jordan at a meeting of fund chiefs and central bankers of the 21-nation Arab League, also asked for money from governments and commercial banks to set up a new investment pool, delegates said.

Cancelling IMF terms

Quwaiz told the two-day closed conference that the AMF had cancelled a rule that

members could not draw on its funds before gaining help from the International Monetary Fund, on which the AMF is based.

HE said the Abu Dhabi-based AMF had streamlined its interest rate structure to two rates from nine — 4.15 per cent on concessional loans and 5.75 per cent for all other loans. The changes would help indebted Arab states, he said.

Quwaiz said Arab financial markets needed urgent development so that they could use private Arab capital efficiently.

The AMF and the AFESD, the Arab World's two major monetary funds, said increasing debt, reduced oil incomes, and a growing gap between Arab productivity and population growth were undermining any positive achievements, the delegates said.

"Our funds will have a big role in the future to solve these problems," said Abdul Latif Al Hamad, chief of the AFESD.

"Although the world is wit-

nessing good economic activity, the Arab World is not — due to debts, had administration, and lack of resources," he added. "I do not foresee any improvement."

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan told the meeting inter-Arab trade had stuck at a low seven per cent of total Arab trade.

Hamad noted that Arab oil revenues dropped from \$212 billion in 1980 to \$68 billion last year and that poorer Arab nations had only kept up with the oil-financed construction boom of the 1970s by building up an \$80 billion debt.

As per capita production fell, per capita consumption rose. The Arab World, with four per cent of global population, accounts for 13 per cent of world food imports and 20 per cent of grain imports, he said.

On Saturday, the first day of the conference, delegates agreed to set up a working committee to map out Arab strategy on dealing with the challenge posed by a European

Community (EC) internal market due in 1992.

The committee will include the AMF, the permanent economic office of the Arab League, and the central banks of Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Tunisia — one nation from each of the three major Arab economic blocs.

Arab economic officials fear their large trade and financial interests in Europe could be harmed by a monolithic EC market.

Fears include continued EC tariffs on Arab products, control of the large Arab immigrant force, and blocks to Arab investment and banking.

The biggest members of the AMF, which is capitalised at around \$2 billion, are Saudi Arabia with 12 per cent of the voting rights, Algeria with 11.88 per cent, Iraq 9.5 per cent, and Egypt and Kuwait with 8.43 per cent each, an AMF official said.

Egypt, a founder member with Saudi Arabia and Algeria, has declined from its original 13 per cent and Iraq, which

joined soon after, used to have 12 per cent.

Iraq and Egypt hope to increase their voting power and influence, delegates said. The meeting made a point of welcoming Egypt. Most Arab League members want Egypt back after it was ousted for its peace treaty with Israel in 1978.

The two-day meetings concluded Saturday after electing Osama Al Faqeh from Saudi Arabia to take over as AMF director-general.

Al Faqeh is currently the under-secretary for finance and economic affairs in Saudi Arabia.

Abdullah Al Quwaiz said Saturday he would resign in August to concentrate on his job with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Quwaiz is regarded by many Arab financial officials as the most active AMF chief since its foundation.

"Despite my resignation from the fund, I am sure the AMF is now in the lead of joint Arab economic work and it

Sudan new government seeks deal with SPLA

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's new government, committed to making peace with southern rebels, held its first session Sunday amid accusations of treachery from hardline Muslims.

Diplomats said a string of victories in recent weeks by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) could encourage it to take a tough line in any talks with Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, or even refuse to do a deal.

"The army will have to launch a major offensive and recapture some... garrisons the SPLA captured to give peace a better chance of success," a diplomat said.

Mahdi, also facing famine in the south, high government debts and political opponents who want to crush the rebels by force, will have an uphill struggle to negotiate an end to five years of fighting, the diplomats said.

Army generals publicly challenged Mahdi Feb. 20, asking him to form a new broad-based government and either boost defence spending or talk to the SPLA. He chose peace.

The party newspaper of the opposition National Islamic Front (NIF) described Mahdi's coalition administration, sworn in on Saturday, as a "fifth-column" government.

The SPLA had sympathisers in



Sadeq Al Mahdi

the government who would give away state secrets, said Al Raya newspaper.

The NIF, a coalition partner with Mahdi's Umma Party in the last government, decided to go into opposition after Mahdi dropped his opposition to a peace plan.

Eighteen ministers of the new 23-member cabinet met Sunday. The main coalition partners are Umma, with eight cabinet posts and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) with six.

Four posts have gone to small southern-based parties, two to trades unions and one each to the Communist Party and the Sudan National Party.

The defence minister, retired army general and former diplomat Osman Mubarak Rahma, is an independent.

The SPLA, led by John Garang, is fighting to end what it sees as domination of the mainly Christian and animist south by the Muslim, Arabised north.

2 killed in Turkish poll violence

ANKARA (R) — Two people were shot dead and 28 were injured in Turkey Sunday during municipal elections likely to determine the political future of reformist Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

Ozal, who has threatened to resign or call a snap general election if the results make it difficult for him to govern, said in a final campaign appeal that "dark forces" aimed to destroy Turkey.

The violence during voting for mayors and assemblies in 2,000 towns and cities was believed to be the worst in eight elections and referenda since military rule from 1980 to 1983.

The semi-official Anatolian News Agency said two people were shot dead and 17 were injured in a series of clashes between rival party supporters in the eastern province of Kars. Eleven people were hurt in fist fights in the southeastern provinces of Mardin and Adiyaman.

The poll is viewed widely as a confidence vote in Ozal, 61, a pro-Western conservative who has dominated Turkish politics since taking office in 1983.

Opinion polls suggested his Motherland Party, returned to power for five years in 1987 general elections, and the main opposition Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP) would each win about one third of the vote.

"We are awaiting the results with happiness," said SHP leader Erdal Inönü after voting in Istanbul.

Ozal said in a television address Saturday: "Power groups of various types have taken advantage of deadlock in Turkey."

key's problems... if they could, they would destroy us."

"I am speaking to the forces of the underworld," added the prime minister, who was shot in the hand by a gunman last June. "I know that the militant who fired two shots at me was organised by you, the dark forces. But I will continue my fight as long as I live."

Housewife Macella Akat told Reuters after voting in Istanbul's affluent Bebek area. "We need a change of blood. I have never seen such a difficult time as in the past two years."

A housewife in Ankara, the capital of the country of 54 million people, said: "I will vote for Ozal because there is no alternative. It is as simple as that."

Election issues have been inflation, running at an annual rate of 72 per cent, and Ozal's independent leadership style, which has drawn fire from all quarters, even

his own party.

Opinion polls indicated the Motherland would lose control of the main cities of Ankara and Izmir but would hold Istanbul under Mayor Bedrettin Dalan, seen as a possible future leader.

Seven parties contested the elections but only the Motherland, the SHP and the centre-right True Path Party of former Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel were regarded as serious contenders.

Ozal could claim victory with only 32 per cent of the vote, enough to win a parliamentary majority in any general election. The Motherland took 292 of parliament's 450 seats with 36 per cent in 1987.

But internal strife within the ruling party, which embraces politicians from the religious right to liberals, is likely to intensify if it polls under 32 per cent.

Residents of Kanaqi and its surrounding villages who left during the Gulf War are gradually trickling back. But there were no signs of any reconstruction activity in the town.

Some residents said, however, that they had received compensation for property destroyed in the bombardment.

Some Arabs also attended the Kurdish new year feast, which is a national holiday for all Iraqis.

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Iraq war, Kanaqi, located only a few kilometres from the Iranian border, suffered heavy shelling and rocket attacks by Iranian troops.

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Kurds kick off new year celebrations

KHANAQI, Iraq (AP) — Iraq's Kurds kicked off traditional new year celebrations this week with feasting and dancing on a hilltop above their border town in honour of their ancient hero, Kawa the blacksmith.

The March 21 feast of *Naw Ruz* (New Day in Kurdish) also marks the arrival of spring for this rebellious minority of 20 million people spread over the mountainous region where the borders of Iraq, Iran and Turkey meet.

Although most Kurds are Sunni Muslims, they share their calendar with the Shi'ite Muslims of Iran.

In Kurdish legend, the Naw Ruz celebrations commemorate the day that Kawa killed the cruel King Al Tahak and freed the Kurds from oppression.

"It's more than a legend that we celebrate. It's a symbol of life, renewal and hope that Naw Ruz gives us," said Sheikh Nqashabandi, 80, who lives in Khanaqi, just a few kilometres from the border with Iran.

According to the legend, Kawa slew the king after he devoured the livers of six of the blacksmith's seven sons as a treatment for a rare skin disease.

Nqashabandi was among hundreds of Kurds who attended the festivities. Many joined in the traditional "chabi" dance, circling beneath cypress and blossoming cherry trees to the sound of flutes and drums.

"This year the feast is bigger and there are more people having a good time, now that peace has prevailed," he said.

Similar festivals are held throughout northeastern Iran where the 3.5 million Kurds live. For many, the March 21 feast is the start of a spring holiday that lasts up to one week.

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Kabul food handouts a drop in the ocean

KABUL (R) — "Four out of five children who come to this clinic are malnourished," said Doctor Ismail Saidi.

Saidi, the hard-pressed head of one of Kabul's 29 Mother-and-Child Clinics, was watching on Easter Sunday as staff doled out flour and sugar to 600 of the neediest families in the Afghan capital's sprawling Khair Khana housing area.

With priority given to pregnant women, nursing mothers and those with sick children, the lucky few received 10 kilograms of flour and three kilograms of sugar provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

There are an estimated 50,000 underfed children in Khair Khana alone.

"We have no milk powder, we have no medicines. We need penicillin, tetracycline, folic acid tablets for the pregnant women — everything," Saidi said.

Although the Soviet food supplies are arriving regularly to feed the city, U.S. aid for the neediest is held up by security problems and wrangles over distribution. India has begun ferrying in

supplies to the war-racked country but so far only two plane loads have arrived carrying a meagre 17 tonnes.

Having no choice, the women waited patiently in the rain outside the clinic. To avoid a stampede, the clinic let in one woman at a time to collect the precious bags.

"There is so little we can do," said Doctor Katawazy, vice-president of the Mother-and-Child Clinic Organisation.

"Thirty per cent of the children are suffering from grade three malnutrition — the most serious grade."

Would many of them die? asked a reporter.

"Two hundred of every thousand newborn Afghan children die. Before they are five years old, 120 more," Katawazy said.

In the winter they die of chest infections. Now the warm weather is coming they will die of diarrhoea. But the cause is malnutrition."

Katawazy shrugged. "The last (food) distribution was six weeks ago. The next — who knows? We do what we can."

Britain will use influence for peace

RABAT (R) — Britain will try to use its influence to achieve Middle East peace through negotiations at an international conference, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was quoted Sunday as saying.

She told the official Moroccan news agency MAP: "Britain has always played a role in Middle East history and enjoys considerable influence in the area."

"We will exercise this influence to support negotiations which should lead to a peaceful solution based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which provide for exchanging territory in return for peace."

Thatcher is due to confer with King Hassan in Marrakesh Monday during the first visit to



Margaret Thatcher, Morocco by a British prime minister since its independence in 1956.

MAP quoted her as saying the Palestinians must make part in the negotiations to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. "Their recent declarations accepting Israel's right to exist and their renunciation of terrorism are important steps," she said.

"The best framework for these negotiations would be an international conference under the auspices of the permanent members of the U.N."

Tehran hijacked yacht — Gulf paper

MANAMA (AP) — The Iranian navy has hijacked the yacht of an Arab tycoon with five members of a Gulf ruling family and four Britons aboard, the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anha reported Sunday.

The paper said the 25-metre blue-and-white yacht was intercepted while sailing from Bahrain to Kuwait and was escorted to an Iranian island, believed to be Farsi. The island is in the middle of the Gulf midway between Bahrain and Kuwait.

The usually reliable newspaper said it had the names of the prominent people aboard the yacht but refrained from publishing them "to avoid affecting the secret contacts going on with Iran at the highest level to end the incident."

It said the last message received from the yacht was at 4 p.m. (1300 GMT) Thursday, six hours after it had sailed from

Bahrain.

A spokesman for the Iranian embassy in Kuwait, who did not wish to be named, told the AP: "We have no information yet. We read the report like you in the newspaper."

Iran regularly intercepted vessels that strayed into Iranian waters during its eight-year war with Iraq. But such interceptions and the spate of attacks on oil tankers by both sides ended with the acceptance of a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire Aug. 20.

In the southern Gulf Emirate of Dubai, the English-language daily Gulf News reported Sunday that a ship transporting 378 goats to the United Arab Emirates from India was missing. "It is suspected that the vessel has been detained by Iranian authorities," it added.

The freighter, identified as the MSV Kirti, had sailed from Tuna Port in India Mar. 8 and was due in Dubai Mar. 17, the paper said.

Algeria's one-party system faces great challenge

ALGIERS (AP) — Sweeping political and economic reforms have been unleashed in Algeria by the nationwide riots last year in which hundreds died.

Following a constitutional referendum that opened up the system, at least 19 political groups are planning to contest the monopoly of the National Liberation Front in legislative and municipal elections due this fall.

The riots last October — largely directed against the one-party system instituted at the end of French colonial rule — left 176 dead by official count, while government opponents cited figures of 500 or more killed. But the riots brought changes which fundamentally transformed the structure of the state.

The main architect of these changes was President Chadli Benjedid, who was reelected to a five-year term in December without opposition.

Immediately following his election, Benjedid opened a campaign for a new constitution, which eliminated "socialism" from the basic principles of the Algerian state and paved the way for the introduction of the multi-party system. The constitution was approved Feb. 24 by 73.4 per cent of those voting.

During the current period of transition, the 19 groups — ranging from the Communist Party and Islamic fundamentalists to Western-oriented Liberal and Social Democratic parties — are adopting their statutes and future programmes.

Abderrezak Bouhara, executive secretary of the National Liberation Front, said there was no reason why a renewed and reinvigorated party could not confront the democratic opposition of other groups for the defence of what he called Algeria's "socialist achievements."

"The front is perfectly capable of playing the democratic game," he added.

But Ali Belhadj, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front and regarded as one of the unconditional extremists of the Islamic movement, said, "We are for the full and unrestricted application of Islamic Sharia law. Our only constitution is the Koran, and the place of women is in the home."

Other political opinion ranged widely. The Rally for Culture and Democracy demands that Amazigh — the language of the Kabyle people who have lived in Algeria since before the Arabs arrived — be recognised as a national language of Algeria. The leader of the Social Democrats, Abderrahmane Adjerid, says, "We do not only want to distribute wealth but to create it, notably by encouraging private enterprise."

Some time later this year, an extraordinary congress of the once-dominant party will take account of the changes and adopt a policy for the future. Until then Benjedid remains the party's president and one of his close allies, Abdul Hamid Mehri, its secretary-general.

An anomaly of the current period of transition, the ruling party remains dedicated to socialism and one-party domination.

In fact — rejecting views vigorously expressed by Mehri — the party congress took a position against the new constitution. This reflected the views of the party stalwarts who feared for their entrenched jobs and positions.

But the party was greatly weakened shortly afterward by the simultaneous resignation of all its army members. Many government officials are said to be looking to one of the 19 new parties for their future political allegiance.

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But the party was greatly weakened shortly afterward by the simultaneous resignation of all its army members. Many government officials are said to be looking to one of the 19 new parties for their future political allegiance.

"They are waiting only to see which party will have the best chance of winning," one party official commented, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The new constitution requires that any political group which requests official recognition be granted such recognition and be allowed to take part in elections. The only condition is that the party should uphold the constitution itself.

The National Liberation Front's official organ, Revolution Africaine, foresaw a plot to liquidate the party, beginning with the "probability of an abandonment of the party by its president," Benjedid himself.

The chairman of one of the budding new parties said the president would form his own party and take all those loyal to him over into the new formation. Sources close to the president, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was "not unlikely" that people loyal to Benjedid would seek to establish a new party. They said the president intended to remain above the political turmoil.

Some sources said the simplest solution to the National Liberation Front's problems would be to change its name. But Revolution Africaine commented that there was "a genuine risk of the disintegration of the state and a danger for the construction of socialism in our country."

This official party view runs close to an open statement of opposition to Benjedid.

It is not clear whether the president's adroit manoeuvring will enable him to continue in control of the party long enough to take charge of a new, more liberal, political grouping likely to win majority support in the Algeria of the future.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Gulf opens pollution meeting

KUWAIT (R) — Experts from eight Gulf countries, including Iraq and Iran, began a two-day meeting Sunday to discuss how to clear the waterway of dangerous debris resulting from the eight-year-long conflict. The experts of the Regional Organisation for Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) will draft a plan to clear the Gulf of pollutants and navigational hazards, Kuwaiti Minister of State for Planning Abdul Rahman Al Awadhi said. In an opening statement he said "since the sea does not recognise national boundaries, it is our duty to tackle the problem of potential pollution and other hazards facing us before it is too late." U.S. naval experts say up to 200 mines laid by Iran and Iraq may still be in the Gulf despite more than a year of coordinated minesweeping by six Western nations.

Bomb hoax delays Saudi flight

KARACHI (R) — A Saudi airlines flight was delayed for three hours Saturday after a telephone caller said a powerful bomb had been placed on board, Karachi airport officials said. The airliner was allowed to leave after a thorough check found no bomb, the officials added.

Aziz meets Soviet official

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz met a visiting Soviet expert on the Middle East Saturday for talks on stalled Gulf peace talks, Baghdad Radio said. It said Aziz also discussed other events in the region with Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Middle East Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry. The radio quoted Aziz as saying Iraq wanted to achieve a durable peace with Iran.

Iranian paper urges boycott over film

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper Saturday urged the Tehran government to boycott an Istanbul Film Festival because "The Last Temptation of Christ" is due to be shown. Abrar said an Iranian entry in the festival should be withdrawn in protest at the screening of the Martin Scorsese film, which contains scenes of Christ fantasising about making love. "Is there any difference between the prophet of Islam and Jesus Christ — peace be upon them?" asked the paper. "Isn't the insult against divine infallibility?" The paper said the Turkish government had already been disgraced over its ban on women wearing Islamic headscarves at university. The issue has caused friction in normally cordial Turkish-Iranian relations. Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini last month ordered the killing of British author Salman Rushdie for writing a novel considered insulting to Islam, "The Satanic Verses."

Spanish deputies — Polisario talks

MADRID (R) — A delegation of Spanish parliamentarians left for Algiers Saturday to meet leaders of the Polisario Front guerrilla group and visit the disputed Western Sahara territory for the first time. The eight deputies will hold talks with Algerian parliamentarians and visit refugee camps as well as crossing into Western Sahara to meet Polisario leader Mohammed Abdul Aziz, head of the self-declared Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR). It will be the first visit by a group of Spanish deputies to the Western Sahara since the Algerian-backed guerrillas began their fight against Morocco in 1976 to gain independence for the former Spanish colony. The deputies, who will return to Spain March 29, include a member of the ruling Socialist Party but are not officially representing Spain. Madrid does not recognise the SADR.

Iran drug addicts sent to camps

NICOSIA (AP) — Two hundred drug addicts picked up in central Tehran Saturday are to be sent to labour camps in southeast Iran, state-run Tehran Radio reported. The radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted an unnamed source at the anti-narcotics squad as saying that the round-up was the first stage of a large-scale programme to send vagrant addicts from the cities to camps to labour camps in Sistan-Baluchistan province. The drug addicts will help construct barricades intended to prevent narcotics smugglers crossing into the province from Pakistan and Afghanistan, the source of most drug consignments that enter Iran, according to Iranian officials. The addicts will be kept in the camps from six months to a year, and will be compensated for their labour, the official was quoted as saying. He gave no details of payments. More than 350 drug smugglers have been executed and several thousand addicts rounded up under a new, draconian anti-narcotics law that took effect Jan. 21.

Syria sacks workers for corruption

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria has sacked 33 government workers for corruption or dishonesty, official newspapers reported Sunday. They said several other employees were sent to a special economic security court for trial on corruption charges. Hundreds of employees had been sacked or sent to jail during the last three years as part of a government campaign to boost production in the public sector.

Larijani resigns

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani has resigned, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported Sunday. Larijani, who has been criticised by Iranian hardliners for advocating moderation in foreign policy, was in charge of relations with the United States and Europe. IRNA, received in Nicosia, said he was replaced by Mahmoud Vaezi, the Foreign Ministry director general for Europe. No reason was given for Larijani's resignation. The Foreign Ministry said Larijani submitted his resignation March 19, IRNA said. The English-language daily Tehran Times reporting the change quoted informed sources as saying Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati had accepted Larijani's resignation "immediately."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran

15:40 Programme review

15:45 Children programmes

17:10 Documentary

18:00 News summary in Arabic

18:05 World News

18:20 Arabic series

19:15 Local programme

19:40 Programme review

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Arabic series

21:35 Programme review

21:45 Monday Forum

22:20 Variety Show

23:00 News summary in Arabic

23:10 Variety show (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Monde est A Vous

19:00 News in French

19:15 Weekly Sport magazine

19:30 News in Hebrew

19:45 Varieties

20:30 Carol Burnen

21:10 Jack and Mike

22:00 News in English

22:30 Jewel in the Crown

PRAYER TIMES

04:00 Fajr

05:27 Sunrise (Duhai)

11:41 Dhuhr

15:11 Asr

17:55 Maghreb

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrazas Church Tel. 622661

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assiout International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Clouds appear at different altitudes and another drop in temperature will occur. Winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be dusty

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

with northerly moderate winds and calm sea.

Min./Max. temp.

Aqaba 7 / 16

Amman 13 / 24

Deirat 13 / 24

Jordan Valley 6 / 19

12 / 25

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Aqaba 26. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mahmoud Allan 894866

Dr. Mohammad Abu Mahfouz 793344

Dr. Majed Abu Sneiah 881635

Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shar' 791405

Firas pharmacy 661912

Al Asraa pharmacy 670353

Nadrouk pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsi pharmacy 637660

AMMAN:

Dr. Shihab Al Zagh (—)

Al Sharaa's pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Samir Lawzi (—)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630541

Rescue 199

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 6220993

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 634302

Traffic Police 65639091

Public Security Department 656000 / 685111

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 697467

Complaints 697467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information 661111

(directory assistance) 661111

Overseas Calls 661111

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-532000

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816

Al-Shifa Maternity, J. Amn. 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Mustafa Hospital 6672279

Queen Alia Hospital 6624950

The Islamic, Abdali 66612717

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ahrufieh 775112/6

Army, Marka 891611/5

Queen Alia Hospital 6624950

Amal Hospital 674133

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732</



His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials extend their condolences to Basal Mufti, son of the late Sa'id Al Mufti who was laid to rest Sunday at the Royal Cemetery in Amman (Petra photo)

King attends funeral of Sa'id Al Mufti

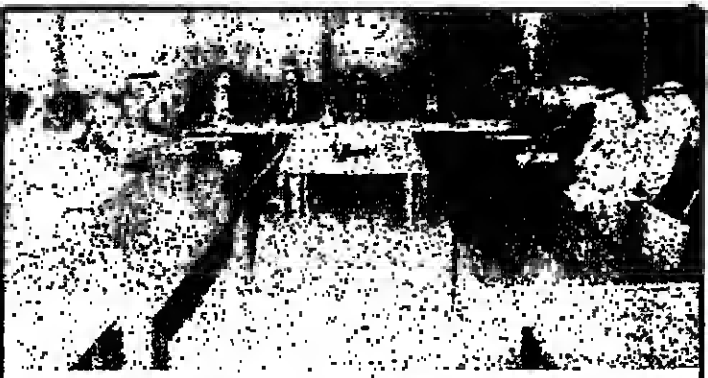
AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday took part in the funeral of the late former prime minister and parliament member Sa'id Al Mufti, who was buried at the Royal Cemetery.

Following prayers at the site there was a 21-gun salute for the late Sa'id Al Mufti before his body was laid to rest.

Taking part in the ceremony also were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, former prime ministers, Chief of the Royal

Court Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's political advisor, Adnan Abu Odeh, the King's private advisor, Amer Khamash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ibn Zaid, Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mheila, cabinet members, senior government officials and high ranking army officers.

Also taking part in the funeral was the Speaker of the Palestine National Council Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh and a large congregation of mourners. The late Sa'id Al Mufti died at the age of 91.



REFUGEE AFFAIRS: Educational and health services for the Bakaa refugee camp were reviewed Sunday by Dr. Ahmad Qatanani (centre), director of the Foreign Ministry's department of Palestinian affairs, at a meeting with local officials and representatives of the camp residents. Qatanani heard a briefing on the camp's needs of schools and road maintenance work and sewerage and water services. Local services committees, and school teachers in the camp who attended the meeting raised the question of school buildings and were told that the problem will be solved in the course of the Ministry of Education's school building programmes (Petra photo)

First Arab bio-technology meeting opens today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates from 11 Arab countries gather here Monday for the First Arab Conference on Perspectives of Modern Bio-Technologies in the Arab Countries.

Dr. Walid Al Khatib, the conference's official spokesman said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the conference is designed to focus attention on bio-technologies in general and their applications in the process of socio-economic development of the Arab World.

Khatib said that the delegates will identify areas where bio-technologies could be applied especially in industry, agriculture, food processing and pharmaceuticals; and will discuss proposals for formulating a pan-Arab plan that would involve regional and international organisations in helping in the process. Involvement could take the form of training personnel, developing infrastructures and guidance in the application of bio-technological techniques in the different fields, Khatib added.

He said that the working papers to be reviewed by the 90 specialists and researchers will deal with industry, agriculture and medicine — areas where the application is most likely; and will turn attention to future research in this matter.

He said that the organisers of the four-day meeting are: the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (FASRC), the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

According to Khatib, specialists attending the conference will come from Iraq, Sudan, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Kuwait, Syria, Tunisia, Somalia, Egypt. He said that delegates from India and Yugoslavia are also expected to attend and present working papers.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalous at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Moroccan artist Al Hashemi Izza at the Gallery, Jabel Luweibdeh.
- ★ An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ An art exhibition by Yusra Abu Ghazaleh at Philadelphia Hall, Holiday Inn.
- ★ A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting Jordan's historical and touristic sites at the University of Jordan.
- ★ An exhibition of Jordanian national heritage displaying Jordanian-made carpets and traditional costumes at the University of Jordan.
- ★ A book exhibition at the Wasfi Tal Industrial School, Irbid.

FILM

- ★ A French film on the French revolution entitled "1989" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

BADEA board meets, discusses 5-year plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board of governors of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) held its 15th meeting in Amman Sunday to discuss policies and topics related to the bank's future operations.

The board of 18 governors discussed a 1990-1994 five-year plan as well as means of dealing with states that fail to repay loans and a report on last year's operations. The delegates are all ministers of finance and economy of the bank's member states. Their meeting here was within the framework of the joint annual meeting of the Arab development institutions: the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab Authority for Agricultural

Investment and Development. BADEA board of governors is the bank's highest authority.

BADEA which was established in implementation of a decision by the sixth Arab summit held in Algiers in 1973, began operations in 1975. It is a financial institution funded by the member countries of the Arab League with the purpose of contributing to the economic development of the non-Arab African countries. To this end, the bank is given a mandate to extend loans and to provide technical assistance for the implementation of development projects and to encourage the investment of Arab capital in African economic expansion.

Between 1975 and 1988 BADEA's financial commitments in Africa totalled \$874 million in support of 121 projects.



BADEA board of directors during their meeting in Amman Sunday (Petra photo)

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

SADDAM MESSAGE: Upper House of Parliament member Akaf Al Fayez Sunday received a message of thanks from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in reply to his congratulatory cable to the president on the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council. The message was delivered to Fayez by the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jassem Hussein, who also delivered to him an invitation to attend the Iraqi parliamentary elections due to be held in April (Petra).

ROAD SAFETY: Friends of the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents will hold a five-day camp in south Shouneh Wednesday, aimed to spread awareness about traffic and safety on the roads (Petra).

UNDP: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Amman Ali Attila Sunday left for Malta to take part in the nine-day meetings of the UNDP resident representatives, to be held Monday. Participants will discuss the U.N. educational, development programmes, and prospects of cooperation for carrying out the programmes contained in the UNDP plan of action for the Arab region (Petra).

WORKSHOP: Secretary-General of the Water Authority of Jordan Mu'taz Bilheisi Sunday presented certificates to participants in a week long workshop on studying and developing water resources. Taking part in the workshop, which was organised by the Ministries of Water and Irrigation, Energy and Mineral Resources in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, were participants from Syria, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan (Petra).

Moroccan minister leaves Jordan, Morocco reach trade agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Moroccan Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Al Azmani Sunday concluded a four-day visit to Jordan during which he reached agreement with his Jordanian counterpart on promoting bilateral trade and organising industrial and trade fairs to promote the sale of national products in either country.

Azmani and his counterpart Hamdi Tabbaa co-chaired the joint Jordanian-Moroccan economic committee meeting which discussed these issues and later signed the minutes of the meeting.

According to the minutes signed Saturday evening, Jordan and Morocco will exchange customs free goods during 1989 worth \$40 million to be shared equally between them, and will consider all national products subject to trading between them provided they are vouchered by certificates of origin and approved by the Jordanian and Moroccan commercial centres in Casablanca and Amman, and to allow these centres to sell \$16 million worth of national products annually.

The two sides agreed that Jordan and Morocco will this year organise trade fairs to sell \$4 million worth of national products free of customs duty directly to the public.

They also decided to encourage the exchange of visits from Jordan and Morocco by officials and businessmen to help facilitate the flow of trade between them. The two sides said that Jordan and Morocco will hold a joint industrial fair in Muscat, Oman in February 1990 under the supervision of the ministries of trade and industry in Amman and Rabat.

Morocco agreed at the talks to organise a training seminar in Amman to provide expertise and training to Jordanian personnel in the process of exporting agricultural products to the European Community countries.

The joint committee said that interested Arab companies are now welcome to create a joint shipping line linking Jordan with Morocco, and it urged scientific research centres in Jordan and Morocco to launch cooperation in exchanging information and expertise and in organising seminars to help boost national industries.

According to a final statement the committee decided to hold its next meeting in Rabat during 1990. Tabbaa and other senior officials were at the airport to see off the Moroccan delegation.

Ibrahim echoes state of nation report:

Shift towards democratisation crucial to Arabs' progress

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A shift towards "democratisation" is seen as crucial to achieving successes on the Arab arena in the coming decade, according to the secretary general of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), Dr. Saad-Eddin Ibrahim.

Ibrahim, who is presiding over the ATF general assembly meeting currently being held in Amman, said in an interview that he is optimistic about the future status of the Arab Nation.

"We will see greater movement towards Arab unification and resolution of some of the persistent problems (lingering) from pre-colonial, colonial and early independence state building, institution building, inequity, poverty, etc in the 1990's... but, democratisation is the key (to solving these problems)," Ibrahim said.

He believes that democratisation, which he defines as "greater participation of the people in ruling themselves," will create a "dynamic, vital society facing its problems, both the new and the old, in an imaginative way."

"With the democratisation of all the vital forces in the Arab World, not only the rulers and regimes, the whole society will be mobilised to face and to solve its problems," said Ibrahim.

He asserted that democratisation would also lead to "greater stability and is probably the best insurance for the regimes' safety in the long run," adding that the process should come "gradually, rationally and should be a partnership between the existing regimes and the new forces in their societies."

Referring to the ATF report on the status of the Arab Nation in 1988 submitted to the general assembly, Ibrahim supported his conclusions by pointing to the events which have taken place in the Arab World during 1988, events that contributed to reversing the negative trends persistent over the past 12 years.

"There has been a positive movement in the Arab Nation, which not only reverses the de-

clining trends, but initiates new positive trends in the Arab World," he said.

However, Ibrahim points out that in the course of one year, the Arab Nation could not possibly reverse all the setbacks and problems accumulated over the past decade.

He referred to the years between 1975-1987 which were marked with the outbreak of civil wars in Lebanon and Sudan, the eruption of the Gulf war, the escalation of the conflict between Morocco and Algeria and saw Egypt being shunned from the Arab fold, saying these events started a "process of disintegration" in the Arab World.

The ATF report alluded to the unresolved issues such as the protracted civil strife in Lebanon and Sudan, the continued Israeli occupation of Arab land and the economic situation in the Arab World which "is not improving, and in many cases is deteriorating."

Change in 1988
But, he says that the purpose of the report is not to "mark what we already know about the manifestations of disunity and of decline, but to record what has changed in 1988."

According to Ibrahim, the organisation worked closely with the Centre for Political and Strategic Studies at Al Ahram newspaper, a Cairo-based sister institution. The Cairo centre is considered a "strategic think tank" concentrating most of its efforts on research of national security.

Since it has experience in monitoring and surveying the situation in the Arab World, Ibrahim said that the ATF found the centre "in the best position to prepare a statement on the state of the Arab Nation."

No illusions
"We have no illusions about the immediate reforms and their outcome. We know it's a long process, the important thing is that it has started," he said,

adding that he believes that the Arab World has embarked on a "new awakening," which he hopes will not be reversible.

According to Ibrahim, the ATF predicted a "new awakening" when the world was "writing the Arabs' death certificate."

"We have observed over the years that the Arab World goes through cycles. One of the great cycles was in from the 1950's until 1967... we (at the ATF) insisted during the first seven years of our establishment that there would be a new Arab renaissance. No one took our preaching seriously until the trend began to reverse itself," he said.

The ATF was established in 1981 as a non-governmental organisation. To date it has 200 members from 20 Arab countries. Only two Arab countries are not represented, Djibouti and Somalia.

Sometimes described as the "think tank" of the Arab World, the ATF embraces decision-makers, intellectuals and leading businessmen.

In compiling the ATF report, the organisation worked closely with the Centre for Political and Strategic Studies at Al Ahram newspaper, a Cairo-based sister institution. The Cairo centre is considered a "strategic think tank" concentrating most of its efforts on research of national security.

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Ministry, USAID sign agreement

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — according to an agreement signed here Sunday.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is to finance the construction of a regional centre for agricultural services which will be set up at the northern town of Ramtha at an estimated cost of \$450,000, according to an agreement signed here Sunday.

The projected centre will carry out agricultural research and agricultural extension services designed to increase and diversify agricultural products, and help develop pastures and Jordanian marketing operations, according to the agreement.

USAID director in Jordan Lewis Reade and Minister of Agriculture Yusef Hamdan Al Jaber signed the agreement for the project which will operate under the supervision of the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT).

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I've flown Business Class before but Royal Jordanian's new Business Class is really different.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Standing together

THE Ismailiya mini-summit between His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has no doubt produced many remarkable results. The declaration by His Majesty King Hussein at the conclusion of the summit that none of the member states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) would attend any Arab summit, be it extraordinary or otherwise, if Egypt is not invited to it, stands out as most refreshing in terms of inter-Arab diplomacy. There were many times in the past when inter-Arab diplomatic and political relations were marred by ambiguities and patronisation which in their cumulative consequences confused friends and foes alike as to where the Arab World stands on major issues confronting it. Clarity of thought and straight talk have seldom been the hallmark of inter-Arab relations. With King Hussein's clear, firm and forthright pronouncement on behalf of the ACC countries with regard to Egypt's indispensable role in Arab summits, one feels and discerns the beginning of a new phenomenon in Arab relations which may yet usher in a new era in inter-Arab diplomacy that is characterised by clarity. That none of the ACC member states would attend any Arab meeting that is not attended by any of the other member states is a foregone conclusion. It is only natural and logical that Jordan, Iraq, North Yemen would boycott any Arab summit from which Egypt is excluded. Any other policy course would indeed make a mockery of the whole ACC scheme. Still the spelling out beforehand of the position of Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen in the clearest possible terms on such an important issue at the next Arab summit is indeed a giant leap forward in Arab relations. Only through the expression of clear thoughts and judgments can communication between the Arab states be conducted on terra firma. All that is left to do now is to have an Arab summit with Egypt taking up its natural place. One has to be blind not to notice that Cairo is playing a pivotal role in the peace process in the Middle East and it is now the anchor on which the rest of the Arab parties can depend in their quest for equitable and durable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflicts. If the ACC can succeed to restore to Egypt its proper role within the context of an Arab summit, it would have proven beyond any doubt that its place in the Arab World will bear one giant fruit after another. By sticking to such a principled position on Egypt's participation in Arab summits, the ACC would indeed prove its credentials as a potent and viable Arab unity forum whose policy statements carry considerable weight and clout worldwide.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Sunday described the Ismailiya summit as an important step towards unifying Arab ranks behind the Palestinian drive to convene an international conference to establish peace in the Middle East. The meeting which grouped the heads of state of Jordan, Egypt and the PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat came only eight days before the Egyptian president's visit to the United States where he will discuss in detail the Palestine problem and will call for the convening of the projected conference as soon as possible, the paper noted. It said that the mini-summit in Ismailiya underlined the fact that the Palestinians are determined to achieve a settlement through a unanimous resolution and joint action on the part of the Arab World, and never through a separate deal with Israel. The paper pointed out also that the Ismailiya meeting was a clear indicator that without Egypt and Jordan no peace process could ever take off the ground. The paper said that the Ismailiya meeting should now prompt the Arab heads of state to convene an Arab summit meeting to discuss proper means for boosting the PLO's stand, backing the intifada with all possible means and re-admitting Egypt to the fold of the Arab League.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily says 10 years in the life of the Camp David accords failed to snatch Egypt away from its Arab Nation. Indeed the Egyptians have been able over the past ten years to contain the Camp David accord and hide far time until it was ready to show its genuine Arab orientation and stand by its Arab sisters in times of adversity, says Mahmoud Al Khatami. The writer says that Egypt over the past ten years was involved in the process of disentangling itself gradually from the grip of the Camp David accords, and was also in a process of self-assessment and revision of its policies. The writer points to Egypt's support for the Iraqis in the Gulf conflict, the Palestinian intifada and its open support for the PLO, as signs of Egypt's genuine and clear-cut readjustment of its position despite the constraints of the 1979 Camp David accords. The writer says the revolt in Palestine, the splits within the Israeli government and the mounting international pressure on the Zionist state to accept peace and recognise the rights of the Palestinian people have all helped to bring back Egypt to its full position within the ranks of the Arab World.

Al Dustour daily referred to the Ismailiya summit meeting and said that it was clearly aimed to gain further momentum towards convening an international conference designed to bring about permanent peace to the Middle East region. The paper referred to assertions by King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that the Arab World stands behind the PLO in its drive to regain legitimate rights for the Palestinian people. The whole world is now oriented towards peace and stability, and the East-West detente is helping the process of peace to move ahead, the paper said. The paper said the Middle East question remains the only point to be settled; and the world community ought to help achieve peace sought by the Arab Nation.

Sawt Al Shaab daily also commented on the Ismailiya summit which grouped King Hussein, President Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. The paper said that the meeting signifies the three parties' orientation towards backing the intifada and convening an international conference for the establishment of peace. Joint action, the paper noted, is what the Arab World requires at the moment, and the meeting in Ismailiya stood out as a witness of the determination of the three leaders to give momentum to the peace process. The PLO-U.S. dialogue, the ongoing intifada and the East-West detente, added the paper, should be instrumental to help the Arabs attain the aspired peace.

Weekly Political Pulse

Beware of separate deals

IT appears that the political ball game that the U.S. wants the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to play now is direct bilateral talks between Israel and the PLO. When President George Bush of all people romanticises and fantasises about the ongoing American-PLO talks in Tunis and prepares to offer prime minister of Israel Yitzhak Shamir, when he visits Washington in April, some specific suggestions with a view to winning him over to U.S. talks with the PLO, one has to be quite naive not to see the obvious. And now that it has come out in the open that the U.S. and the PLO have been preparing the ground work all along for their direct bilateral talks to be followed by some form of direct bilateral talks between the PLO and Israel, the question that needs to be addressed is whether the international peace conference idea has been dealt a fatal blow. One cannot, realistically speaking, pin too much hope on either the Western European nations or the Soviet Union to come to the rescue of the international conference scheme. With Washington once again in the forefront of the countries with clout in the Middle East and squarely and openly committed more than ever to the direct bilateral talks methodology, one wonders what can be done to resuscitate the international conference idea after all.

In fact there is plenty that the Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict can do to breathe new life into the international conference idea. The mini-Arab summit between His Majesty King Hussein, President Hosni Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at Ismailiya two days ago must be viewed in this vein. Paramount on the agenda of the three Arab leaders, I

presume, must have been how to save the international conference project from the various temptations that Washington may contemplate offering the PLO to win it over solidly behind the direct bilateral talks scheme. Thus the urgent need for coordination at the highest level possible to ensure that the Palestine side is not lured into separate bilateral talks. To invigorate the conference idea there must be assurances that at least Egypt, Jordan and the PLO are operating their strategies vis-a-vis the conference objective on the same wavelength. There is no doubt that if Washington and Israel succeeded in tempting the PLO into a separate deal, the harm to the overall Arab coordination with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict would sustain immeasurable damage.

Yet one can appreciate the yearning of the PLO for recognition by Washington and Tel Aviv. It goes without saying that the surest way to obtain such a coveted recognition is to have the PLO accepted in a central party in negotiations. That may explain Chairman Yasser Arafat's offer to visit Israel to engage the Israeli government in negotiations. Such readiness to plunge into even direct bilateral talks was hitherto not too long ago by Salah Khalaf, the number two political figure in the mainstream of the PLO, who said that the PLO is willing to engage the Israeli government in direct talks. To be sure the PLO last word on the matter of direct talks with Israel is at best fuzzy and speculative at this stage in view of the many contradictory policy statements offered by various members of the PLO leadership. My considered guess is that the PLO may engage the Israelis in only

interim negotiations with a view to affect preliminary solutions. The Americans would want the Israelis and the PLO leadership to "feel one another" as a prelude to formal negotiations that could commence at an international conference level.

Even more relevant than the PLO position regarding the international conference idea is the Syrian perspective which has yet to be spelled out in a way that is fully coordinated and synchronised with the positions of the rest of the Arab parties. And now that Jordan, Egypt and the PLO have achieved perfect harmony among themselves, what remains to be achieved is the integration of the Syrian role into this newly emerged Arab harmony. To be sure the future of the conference would hang in the balance as long as Damascus is not as fully incorporated into the overall Arab scheme for the conference idea. If hostility between Syria and the PLO, for example, continues unabated, it would be better and wiser for the Arab parties not to push for an international conference till they succeed in eliminating all semblances of fundamental disagreement between all the Arab parties expected to attend the conference. If this inter-Arab disagreement hangs on much longer there would always be danger that the Palestinian people under occupation, and through their organisation, the PLO, might be tempted to go at it alone. In this context one wonders if the gap between Syria and Yasser Arafat group within the PLO is bridgeable. If so then the conference idea will materialise. If not, there is fear that the idea will come to naught.

Lying low in Tunisian elections

By Jonathan Wright
Reuter

TUNIS — Tunisia's Islamic movement leader Rashed Ghannouchi is lying low during the campaign for parliamentary elections in April 2.

Condemned to life imprisonment in 1987 under former President Habib Bourguiba, he is still waiting for the new government to restore his civic rights and let him take a full part in politics.

But across the country, members of Ghannouchi's Nahdha (renaissance) movement have taken advantage of the new atmosphere of political freedom and gone to the hustings as candidates on thinly disguised independent lists.

Ghannouchi, 47, is monitoring their progress from his modest home in the south Tunis suburb of Ben Arous and says that what he has seen so far is encouraging.

"There's a clear difference between our position at the last elections and our position now. In 1981 we were in prison," he told Reuters in an interview.

"Although we do not yet have

a licence to operate and cannot take part in an equal footing with the others, we believe the electoral process has a certain credibility," he added.

The Nahdha movement, direct successor to the old Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI), applied for legal recognition in early February and has not yet received an answer. Ghannouchi expects approval to come through after the elections.

Bourguiba treated the MTI as enemies of the state, completely excluded them from political life, arrested thousands and drove many of the leaders into exile.

President Zeine Al Abidine Ben Ali, who had Bourguiba removed from power in November 1987 on grounds of senility, has released them from prison and allowed them to resume their activities.

Nahdha movement members say that three quarters of the 114 independent candidates standing for the 141 seats in parliament are affiliated to the movement.

That makes them the third largest force after the ruling Rassemblement Constitutionnel

Democratic (RCD) and the left-of-centre Movement des Democraties Socialistes.

But in a sense the Islamic movement is itself lying low — the manifestos of the independent lists contain few specifically Islamic elements such as application of Sharia (Islamic law) or repeal of Tunisia's Western-style marriage laws.

"Everyone is more concerned to emphasise what they have in common, rather than what divides them. It's as though they wanted to say for the moment our demand is to achieve the basics, after that we can disagree," Ghannouchi said.

The Islamic leader, a former philosophy lecturer educated in Syria, Egypt and France, said the basics were social justice, Tunisia's Arab and Muslim identity, Arab and Maghreb unity, political and press freedoms and the repeal of oppressive laws.

All these elements appeared in a national pact signed by Tunisia's main political trends last November. Ghannouchi said that if his movement was taking part directly, the pact would be the

basis of its programme. "We are still at the stage of establishing our existence. Before we obtain the right to exist, we don't think we can impose on ourselves a detailed programme," he said.

"Our priority is to create an atmosphere of national detente and general freedom that allows to develop our ideas, present them to people and discuss them together," he added.

Some members of the ruling party have already accused the independents either of trying to monopolise the religious constituency or of presenting the face of moderation for the sake of electoral gain.

"Some of these statements contain things reminiscent of the Bourguiba era, like accusing Islamic movement members of being agents of foreign forces..." he said.

Ghannouchi said that the new parliament would represent the main trends capable of practising democracy. "And there will be people sympathetic to the Islamic movement," he added.

OPEN FORUM

A note of gratitude — from a proud mother

ANOTHER troubled night creeping stealthily away, light spreading slowly over my plains, the tops of my mountains, in the empty streets of my towns, camps and villages. With a heavy heart I try to shake off that awkward feeling of loss and face another day. A beautiful morning this is, a real spring day, and three more of my children buried freshly deep down in my soul, near my bosom, how much more to go? And then the thought strikes me like lightning, March the 21st, Mother's Day, my day! I spring up wiping the tears that were swelling in my eyes, for simultaneously a huge pride was swelling in my chest. Today is my day of gratitude, with the right to stand tall, head high, proud, ready to back up the rest of you down those treacherous tracks.

There were times when I really despaired, my fields unploughed, my houses unattended, my streets neglected, and all of you leaving to far away estranged places. Some lay will and many more torn away from my lap by this creature's ugly paws. And at other times, when I had all those ugly cancerous growths all over my body, settlements you tell me they were, for whom? All those strangers. Creeping all over my skin, I do not remember adopting other children. I do not remember waiting to share you with any body else. I would look around at times and wonder, why are they all so passive over my suffering, where are they all heading to, and where did all my traditions go? Where are the results of my teachings? There were streaks of light now and then when I thought I was still cherished and remembered but they seemed to fade away again, surely not my children I would think, they know that blood is thicker than water, for sure they will recall some of my preachings: Never quit, I would repeat, your pride shall be, not in never falling but in rising every time you fall. And sure enough, today, the realisation just came to mind. My children were there all the time, stumbling, struggling, feeling their feet on the ground; I was never forgotten, they were just waiting for the right time. All this past year with all those sacrifices you were telling me what kind of love we share, that no stranger on earth, no matter what the methods, will ever be able to break this bond. And today, I shake off this feeling of self pity and the tringe of shame at ever doubting your loyalty, to replace it with this special feeling of achievement. After all now, my children have a strong hold on the ground, following the right track, now they found their goal and are struggling to achieve it; children in structure, yes. But with such big hearts of men and such will power of steel, to deliver me from my suffering, and obtain a dignified living for my grand children, tonight I shall rest better than I did in decades.

As for today, again, as I survey the empty streets of my towns, my camps, the demolished homes and sealed schools, still I realise spring is not only blooming on my mountains and hills but also in this bereaved heart. And to you my beloved children, the martyrs, the maimed, the tortured imprisoned, the struggling survivors, and on behalf of the rest of your brothers and sisters every where, please accept a simple note of gratitude from the proudest mother of them all this year — Thank you.

Araf S. Ibrahim

Economic tide 'turns' for Africa

THE ECONOMIC tide has turned for sub-Saharan Africa, the world's poorest region, claims a joint report by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

"Recovery has begun, and although it may be too early to draw firm conclusions, the data in the report suggests that a strategy of adjustment with growth is viable for Africa," the Bank's vice-President, Edward Jaycox, writes in the report's introduction.

He strikes a cautionary note, however, by adding that constraints on development remain severe. "It will take time to increase investment, diversify economies and raise productivity."

The report focuses on the period 1985-87, but makes some preliminary observations about last year. Its optimistic tones are at variance with those of another U.N. outfit, the Economic Commission for Africa.

Reporting in January, the latter warned that the continent's overall economic deterioration had continued unabated despite some impressive efforts by African governments.

According to the new joint study, behind sub-Saharan Africa's image of "unrelenting decline" lay a more complex and less dismal picture. When recent trends were put in the perspective of the past 15 to 20 years, the crisis seemed less precipitous and the road to recovery more obvious and more manageable.

After reviewing a series of indicators, including what is described as a strong improvement in the agricultural sector, the report argues that the evidence of the past three years "leaves room for optimism."

The recovery had been helped by the economic reforms introduced by 32 out of the 45 sub-Saharan countries since 1983, as well as by international support, including measures taken to ease the region's external debt burden.

At some length the study compares the fortunes of those countries which are implementing the "structural adjustment programmes" drawn up by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund with those that have yet to embark on these reforms.

"Where African governments implement reforms and donors provide additional resources, economic performance can, on average, be improved," the report claims.

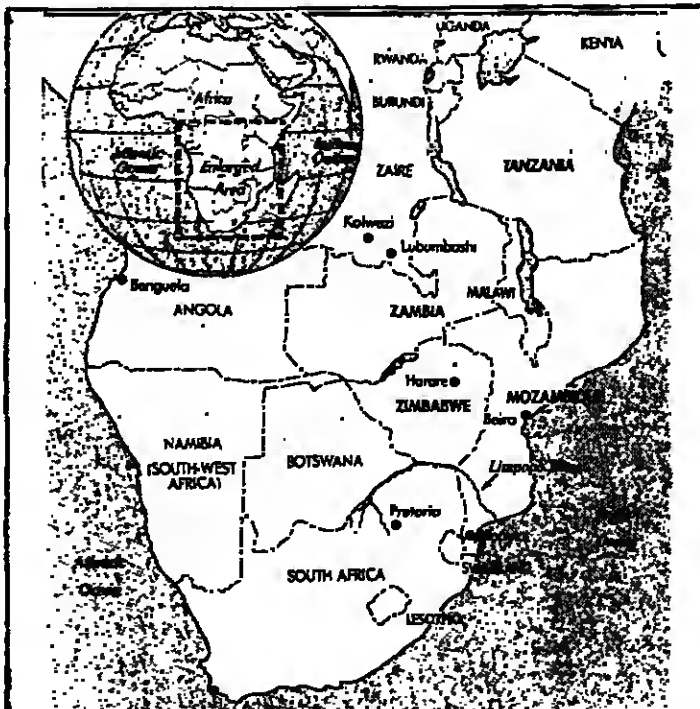
If sudden external shocks were excluded, the annual growth in gross domestic product in the reforming countries increased

from just over one per cent between 1980-84 to an average of almost four per cent in 1986 and 1987. But in those countries with ineffective or no reform programmes, growth rates had been only one-third that level.

The reformers also had lower inflation rates and had substantially reduced their fiscal deficits. According to the report, the reformers more than doubled their agricultural output between 1980-84 and 1985-87. Food production had grown twice as fast in countries which had either liberalised marketing or did not enforce controls.

The reformers are also reaping another major advantage. Both bilateral and multilateral donors, says the study, have gradually but significantly shifted their aid flows to give greater support to countries with strong, sustained adjustment programmes. In contrast, assistance to the non-reformers had begun to decline.

— Lino features.



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Handwritten signature: J. Al-Sayid

ARAB BANK LTD

Dear Shareholders

I have the great pleasure in welcoming you around this table every year to discuss with you the activities and achievements of your institution. 1988 witnessed significant changes which influenced most economic activities, and especially those of the banking industry. Your Bank was well prepared to meet all challenges successfully. I shall start my report by summarizing the influential variables at the international, regional and domestic levels.

World Economy

The economic situation in the industrialized countries was better than expected despite the drastic decline of stock prices. In October 1987, average growth in GNP in the OECD countries was around 4%. The United States, with a 3.8% growth rate in GNP and an unemployment rate of 5.3%, enjoyed its sixth year of continuous growth, the longest post-war growth period. The trade deficit was reduced to US\$ 137 billion and the budget deficit was contained at US\$ 155 billion. Most European countries achieved acceptable, if not good, economic growth rates. With an expansion rate of more than 5%, Japan was the real generator of world economic growth. Domestic expansion of consumption and investment more than compensated Japan for the decline in its exports.

The continued favourable

elements in production and investment were offset by the same congestions in productivity and pressure on prices. The inflation rate was estimated to be 3.2% in the OECD, 4.2% in the United States, 2.2% in Western Europe and 1.2% in Japan. At year end, to keep inflation under control, central banks resorted to raising their discount rates. This led to a rise in interest rates and a consequent decline in investment. The major dangers of the economic situation are enormous and are likely to be aggravated by any increase in interest rates.

Arab Economy

During the last decade the Arab world missed the exceptional opportunities offered by the abundant financial surpluses to build independent and completely integrated industries. The Arab World is still facing substantial economic development problems. Manufactured products represent 60% of its imports and 20% consists of food. Total pan-Arab trade does not exceed 7.4% of Arab trade as a whole. At the same time, 95% of Arab exports are raw materials. Foreign debts of Arab countries are estimated at US\$ 110 billion.

In 1988, oil prices were depressed below US\$ 12 per barrel because of over-production. It is feared that, if no solid agreement is reached among OPEC member countries, the

prices of oil will continue to slide, which will negatively impact developments in the area. We hope that the recent OPEC agreement will stabilize prices and enable the Arab countries to pursue their economic development plans.

Efforts to solve the different political crises surrounding the Arab world raised hopes for a better future. We would like to commend the re-establishment of the Palestinian State, and hope that the major countries in the world will recognize it so as to give the Palestinian people a fair chance to enjoy their human rights on their own land. We would also like to mention the end of the Iraq-Iran war and of the Libyan-Chad conflict, and the agreement to solve the Southern Sudan problem. We hope that the efforts being made in North Africa will lead to a fair and acceptable solution to the Western Sahara problem.

It is also our hope that all these changes, coupled with the challenges facing the Arab nations, will create another chance for joint Arab efforts to reach a new horizon of collaboration. Economic, social and food security in the Arab world cannot be achieved at the current level of cooperation. A new and advanced form of cooperation, similar to that of the EC, is badly needed.

Economic Development in Jordan

Jordan continues its resolute struggle to overcome the current economic crisis, which

dates back to 1982 when the remittances of Jordanian expatriates and Arab countries aid started to decline because of the Gulf war and the drop in oil prices. Jordan's national commitment to the Palestinian cause and the military expenditure caused by this commitment are at the heart of its financial difficulties. The 1978 summit meeting in Baghdad committed the oil-producing Arab countries to support Jordan in building its economy and military capability. Jordan had borrowed to finish the projects it had started and later to finance its debts, assuming that the delay in payments from some committed Arab countries would be temporary.

To face its economic problem, Jordan initiated many economic, monetary and fiscal reforms including flotation of the Jordanian dinar and the reduction of expenditure on infrastructure. Efforts to cut the budget and trade deficits were intensified. Even though these measures are a little late, we believe that they are steps in the right direction.

Operating Performance of the Bank

The Bank's performance in 1988 was influenced by the decline of the Jordanian dinar against the US\$ and other major currencies. All financial statement figures were affected materially by this decline without impairing the soundness of your Institution. Total assets of the Bank increased by JD

1,340 million to JD 4,571 million at the end of 1988, representing a rise of 41.5% over 1987. However, real growth in total assets, after eliminating the effect of the decline of the J.O., is estimated at 13.2%. The decline in the Jordanian dinar's value not only inflated the non-Jordanian assets when translated into J.O. dollars, but also depressed the figures when translated into U.S. dollars. Total assets of the Bank in U.S. dollars reached U.S. \$ 9,581 million against U.S. \$ 9,786 million in 1987, i.e., a 1.9% decline. The Group assets were mildly impacted by this event, reaching U.S. \$ 13,403 million against U.S. \$ 13,285 million in 1987, i.e., an increase of U.S. \$ 117 million, or 1%. As far as balance sheet management is concerned, the Bank continued its conservative policy of maintaining high liquidity. Cash in hand and at banks and marketable securities to total assets ratio at the end of 1988 was 62% for the Bank and 68% for the Group.

Despite the influence of some negative domestic and international factors, your Institution was able to achieve good results in 1988. Net income reached JD 35.1 million in comparison with JD 23.9 million in 1987, representing JD 11.2 million, or a 46.8% increase. Net Income for the Group was US\$ 82.0 million, or a 1.3% decrease. The Board of Directors has proposed to the General Assembly the distribution of JD 7.7 million in cash dividends, which represents 35% of the paid-in capital. The

remaining funds are to be retained in reserves. With this, shareholders' equity to total assets ratio for the Bank will be 4.6% and 5.7% for the Group. A solid equity ratio will enhance our ability to continue our active banking operations and to meet central banks' requirements.

Arab Bank continued its steady expansion to cover all international markets. Early in January 1989, our new branch in Rome commenced operations as part of our current branch network in Europe, which includes the United Kingdom, France, Cyprus and Greece, in addition to Austria, Switzerland and West Germany. In 1988 we are planning to open a new branch in Seoul, South Korea, to complement our network in the Far East, which includes Singapore, Australia, and our representative offices in China and Japan.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated employees for their outstanding work and urge them to continue their efforts for the welfare of your Institution. I would also like to express my personal appreciation to each one of you and to our customers for their continuous support. May God help us in serving you more efficiently.

Abdulmajeed Shoman
Chairman, Board of Directors

New Horizons

The structure and systems of global financial markets are undergoing significant changes at an unprecedented pace. Under these conditions, competition will intensify among banks at national and international levels, and changes in the business environment will drastically influence performance.

Arab Bank's progress owes much to its continuously prudent and conservative policies, its well-planned and persistent expansion in international markets, and its firm commitment to develop its staff's abilities and to modernise its systems.

Arab Bank Ltd. will pursue its expansion in international markets with special emphasis on the Far East and Europe. Our policies will continue to concentrate on fully assuring the safety of funds entrusted to us. We shall do our best to selectively introduce innovative financial products that may serve our customers more efficiently.

By anticipating and fully preparing to meet changes in the business environments, we intend to enhance our reliability and usefulness to our customers and the long-term value of our shareholders' investments.

Khalid Shoman
Deputy Chairman

Balance sheet as of 31 December 1988 and 1987

Assets	31/12/1988 JD ('000)	31/12/1987 JD ('000)	Liabilities	31/12/1988 JD ('000)	31/12/1987 JD ('000)
Cash in hand and at banks	2,466,200	1,815,519	Deposits and other accounts	4,309,628	3,012,980
Debtors (to government and others)	367,636	309,787	Acceptances	45,538	29,407
Loans and advances	1,005,595	991,255	Dividends and remunerations	7,716	7,714
Customers' liability on acceptances	45,538	29,407	Total Liabilities	4,362,882	3,050,101
Investments	32,182	22,874	Shareholders' Equity		
Prepaid expenses and equipment	20,859	17,787	Capital	22,000	22,000
Other Assets	32,672	44,072	Statutory reserve	22,000	22,000
			General reserve	120,000	80,000
			Voluntary reserve	44,000	37,000
			Retained earnings	—	19,600
Total Assets	3,950,044	3,200,701	Total Shareholders' Equity	208,000	180,600
Customers' liability on deposits and credits	824,333	587,487	Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	4,570,882	3,230,701
Total	3,950,044	3,200,701	Guarantees and credits	824,333	587,487
			Total	5,395,215	3,818,188

Profit and Loss Statement for the years 1988 and 1987

Revenue	1988 JD ('000)	1987 JD ('000)
Interest revenue	220,580	180,519
Commission income	10,795	10,787
Net income from operations	231,375	191,306
Other income	10,795	10,787
Total Revenue	242,170	202,093
Expenses		
Salaries and wages	112,000	112,000
Depreciation	1,672	1,672
Taxes	37,558	25,586
Other expenses	1,286,648	77,055
Total Expenses	1,437,278	1,116,215
Net Income	98,442	90,878
Appropriations		
Dividends	7,716	7,714
Reserves	90,726	83,164
Total Appropriations	98,442	90,878

Statement of changes in the Financial Position for the years ended 31 December 1988 and 1987

	1988 JD ('000)	1987 JD ('000)
Funds provided		
Net income	35,116	23,814
Appropriation of premises and equipment	2,442	1,672
Total funds provided from operations	37,558	25,586
Increase in deposits and other accounts	1,286,648	77,055
Deposits in U.S. dollars	—	168,215
Securities and investments	—	729
Other assets	11,200	—
Total	1,345,406	269,585
Balance sheet		
Shareholders' equity	208,000	180,600
Deposits and other accounts	4,309,628	3,012,980
Acceptances	45,538	29,407
Dividends and remunerations	7,716	7,714
Total	4,570,882	3,230,701

Auditors' Report

To the Shareholders of Arab Bank Limited

We have examined the balance sheet of Arab Bank Limited (a Jordanian public shareholding company) as of December 31, 1988 and 1987 and the related income statement and statements of source and application of funds for the years ended December 31, 1988 and 1987.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and included such tests of the accounting records and of the system of internal control and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We have obtained the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audits.

The Bank maintains proper accounting records and the accompanying financial statements are in agreement therewith. Furthermore, the financial data presented by the Board of Directors are consistent with these records.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial position of Arab Bank Ltd. as of December 31, 1988 and 1987 and the results of its operations and its source and application of funds for the years then ended, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Saba & Co.
Amman, Jordan,
20 January 1989.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

59th Annual Report

Dear Shareholders,

Arab Bank Limited Group successfully met major challenges during 1988 and easily adapted to continuous transformation and increased competition in the international financial markets, as well as difficult changes in the region. 1988 was a good year in terms of income, growth, and overall performance and highlighted the strengths of the Arab Bank Group, both financially and managerially. It is our great pleasure to present the 59th Annual Report and financial statements of your Bank.

Financial and Economic Conditions

1988 was a relatively calm year for the industrialized nations, during which they were able to partially control movements in foreign exchange rates, stock prices and interest rates. Their trade imbalances narrowed, and are heading in the right direction, the growth rate in most industrialized countries exceeded expectations, and unemployment rates were at their lowest levels in years. However, the continuous growth, coupled with higher levels of employment, prompted central banks (especially in the United States and the United Kingdom) to raise discount rates so as to keep inflation within tolerable levels.

The relatively stable economic environment in the industrialized nations did not significantly impact upon the developing countries, most of which are heavily in debt. The fact that the prices of raw materials, especially oil, are still depressed did not help the developing countries. Accordingly, deficits persisted in their balances of payments. Some of these countries rescheduled their debts for more than twenty years, and others borrowed more to service their outstandings.

International Banking Environment

In addition to the impact of the general economic situation on the financial markets, the banking industry was especially affected by a group of specific factors. The most important of these are discussed briefly below.

a. World Debt Crisis.

By the end of 1988, the World Bank estimated the developing countries' debts to be around US\$ 1,320 billion. More than 40% is owned by commercial banks. The international markets witnessed several initiatives to ease and contain this explosive crisis. The Baker Plan calls on industrial nations, international agencies and commercial banks to continue lending to heavily indebted countries, in return for export-boosting and growth-oriented economic policies, to help these countries to grow out of their debts. Other plans took the shape of "securitizing" the debt by exchanging it, often at a low face value, for trading instruments such as stocks and bonds. Some debts were transferred into domestic investments in local currencies. Most of these plans have been hampered by the banks' reluctance to lend new money. Moreover, most of the banks added

materially to their debt reserves, boosting them to more than 30% of the debts, and consequently showed heavy losses in their financial statements. The result was a continuing net transfer of resources from the developing to the developed world.

Arab Bank Limited Group exposure to problem countries' debts has been insignificant through the years. Adequate provision, exceeding international banks' acceptable norms, was made to completely cover any possible losses that could result from these debts.

b. Oil Prices

Changes in oil prices have a direct impact on bank's external sources of funds, especially those operating in the Middle East. During 1988, oil prices fluctuated between US\$ 18 and less than US\$ 12 per barrel. Production above quota among OPEC member countries was the main cause of this fluctuation. Although OPEC member countries reached an agreement on production levels in their meeting in November 1988, some key issues, such as the desired price level, optimum production quantity and coordination with non-OPEC members, remain unresolved.

The external sources of funds at Arab Bank Limited continued to grow steadily and according to plans. Expansion locally and internationally compensated for any decline caused by the reduction of OPEC's financial surpluses.

c. Central bank's Requirements.

Proposals by the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) aimed at the harmonization of rules governing bank capital adequacy standards and risk assets ratios were adopted by major central banks in 1988. The main goals of the proposals were to help strengthen the stability of the international banking system and to remove an important source of competitive inequality among banks operating internationally. The BIS system for relating capital to banking risk included off-balance-sheet exposure in the risk assets for the first time. By the 1992 target date the consolidated capital ratio should, as a minimum, equal 8% of risk-adjusted assets. The new base equity standard has a direct impact on many aspects of the banking industry, especially capitalization, investment, income distribution, and off-balance-sheet activities.

In another part of this report, it is shown that Arab Bank Limited Group easily maintains a capital adequacy ratio significantly higher than the required 8%. Conservative policies of the past are giving your Institution a competitive edge during challenging times.

d. Regional Economic Collaboration.

Trade and economic harmonization within regions of the world are advancing steadily. The most visible actions are those of the European Community to achieve the Single European Market by 1992. Free movement of capital among member countries will provide efficient financial services to individuals and firms in the commun-

ity. It will also enable the participants to achieve monetary stability in the area of prices and exchange rate relations. The effort to create a borderless financial market in Europe have direct implications for banking operations, customers and policies. It is also expected that the evolution in the banking industry will accelerate and increasingly change traditional practices that have lasted for years. Super and more efficient banks will emerge at the expense of smaller and less efficient ones. The Management of your Institution is fully aware of these changes. Its strategic planning and resources will be directed to successfully meeting these challenges.

e. Completion and Innovation.

Competition for both depositors and quality borrowers is becoming very fierce among financial intermediaries. Non-bank financial institutions are also competing with banks for their traditional products and markets, while most big industrial corporations are doing away with the services of financial institutions by funding themselves directly. Difficult market conditions have prompted innovation and new products. One of the major activities banks utilized to generate profits in 1988 was the leveraged buyout. The value of some of these individual LBOs was more than US\$ 20 billion.

Arab Bank Limited is working hard to develop its products to compete with those of other international banks, and to increase its market share. It has already participated in some of the most successful LBOs in the United States and Europe.

Arab Bank Limited

Arab Bank Ltd. achieved a 13.2% growth rate in total assets after eliminating the impact of the decline of the Jordanian dinar, its reporting currency. The following paragraphs contain a brief analysis of Arab Bank Ltd. main financial figures.

Net Income

Net income, after tax from operations for the year was JD 33.1 million, against JD 23.9 million in 1987, representing an increase of JD 11.2 million (46.8%). In US\$, the Bank's net income was US\$ 73.6 million, against US\$ 72.3 million in 1987. Once again, our favorable earning performance under challenging operating conditions reflects our solid and prudent managerial policies and our international diversity.

Revenues

Total revenues reached JD 97.7 million, compared to JD 68.7 million in 1987. The Bank's earnings in 1988 and 1987 were generated from the following sources:

Equity

Total shareholder's equity at the end of 1988 was JD 208 million, an increase of JD 27.4 million (15.2%). The Bank's primary capital to total asset ratio was 4.6%.

assets reaching JD 4,500 million, compared to JD 3,900 million in 1987, a 15.4% increase. The growth rate of the assets when measured in US\$ was a nominal decline of 0.5%, reflecting the Bank's holdings in Jordanian dinars and other currencies.

The Bank maintained its traditional liquidity in 1988. The liquidity ratio was 62.0%, against 65.3% in 1987. The slight decline is due to a 62.0% increase in the loan portfolio.

Staff

Arab Bank Ltd. has more than 3,300 employees worldwide excluding the Group. Enhancing our staff skills continue to be a major priority with a special emphasis on high-level management training, customer services and new products. Internal and external training and international seminars are some of the means by which the Bank improves the efficiency of its staff. In 1988 Arab Bank Ltd. training centre in Amman trained 866 employees in 57 different seminars.

Automation

In 1988 the Bank continued to apply advanced technology and automation systems to improve business service and to increase overall efficiency and productivity.

During the year, new computer centres were established in San'a, Yemen, and in Rome, Italy. Our equipment in Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt was upgraded. Our Automated Teller Machine locations reached 12 in Jordan and we started to provide this service in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Sharjah and Deira in the United Arab Emirates, as well as in Doha and Alkhaleej Street in Qatar.

Arab Bank was the leader in introducing inter-branch customer and money transfer services in Jordan. The Dial-up data communication among computer centres worldwide, participation of our New York branch in the international SWIFT network, and provision of facsimile service to all branches are further advances in 1988. Several software packages were developed in-house to automate many of our banking services and back office activities, such as letters of credit, payments, money transfers, in addition to foreign exchange dealing, leasing and shareholder and personal systems.

Appropriation of Net Profit

The Board of Directors recommended the appropriation of JD 11,200,000 distributable income for the year, and to transfer earnings carried forward from 1987 as follows:

JD 7,000,000 to reserves;
JD 7,000,000 cash dividend to the shareholders at JD 3.50 per share (5% of the paid-up capital) to be paid starting May 1989.

JD 7.20 was recommended to the Members of the Board of Directors.

30/3/89

Operational activities

A 10% growth rate target has been established for 1989. Liquidity and gap positions will be maintained at the same level as in 1988. All efforts will be directed towards enhancing our capital base to match our growth. At the same time we will continue our dedicated efforts to increase the wealth of our shareholders and support the price of Arab Bank Ltd. shares in the market.

New facilities

Arab Bank Ltd. expansion plans for 1989 include the following:

- Jordan:** 15 new cash offices will be established in various locations to complement our domestic branches network.
- Italy:** The Rome branch started its operation on January 2nd, 1989.
- Korea:** Our representative office in Seoul is expected to operate as a full branch before the end of the first half of 1989.
- Cyprus:** The operations of three new cash offices will commence in 1989.
- Other countries:** Over the next

few years, we are planning to establish new branches in Malaysia, Thailand, Spain and Canada.

Automation

Our automated activities will expand to cover new locations and products. This will enable us to better serve our customers and increase our operational efficiency. Specifically we are planning to complete the following in 1989:

- More ATMs will be installed in Jordan and in the Arabian Gulf area.
- Direct automated services will be provided in the Arabian Gulf area and Egypt.
- A new system for customers' signature verification will be utilized.
- Automated corporate banking will be put into operation.
- Our computer facilities in Paris will be upgraded.
- Our Paris branch and Offshore Banking Unit in Manama will be connected to the SWIFT network.

Training

The Bank gives special attention to training to enhance its staff's performance and efficiency

to enable them to operate effectively in the rapidly changing banking industry.

In 1989 the Bank's plans include the following:

- Several basic training courses will be conducted to improve our employees' current qualifications.
 - Ten specialized seminars will be held on subjects related to leadership and management techniques.
 - Strong emphasis will be given to external training at our foreign branches and with our international correspondents.
- The good results achieved in 1988 were due to the continued support of our clientele and shareholders, and to the dedicated efforts of all our employees. To all of them, we express our thanks and gratitude. A special note of thanks goes to Mr. Suleiman Mandeel, Member of the Board and representative of the Saudi Ministry of Finance, who served on the Board from 1983 until 1987. We also wish to welcome his successor, Dr. Abdel Aziz Nasrallah.

Board of Directors

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

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Debt, inflation fears to dominate world finance ministers' meeting

WASHINGTON (R) — Industrial nations have called a halt for now to the spiral in worldwide interest rates, but officials are braced for new, painful increases unless inflationary pressures ease in the weeks ahead.

Deeper money would not only slow and possibly jeopardise economic growth in rich countries but also add billions of dollars to the interest bill of developing countries, blunting the benefit of the new U.S. plan to slash Third World debt.

This nexus of problems will preoccupy the world's finance ministers when they gather here from March 31 to April 4 for the regular spring meeting of the 151-nation International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

Although U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's March 10 debt initiative will dominate the talks, officials recognise that the plan will not count for much if they cannot keep world trade growing and stop interest rates rising.

The 15 biggest debtors alone paid \$10 billion more in interest in the past year, according to IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus.

"Let us not lose sight of the contribution that industrial country governments could make to the recovery prospects of the indebted countries by progressively dismantling barriers to international trade and by adopting a more balanced mix of anti-

inflationary financial policies," he said last week.

The big culprit in the eyes of most economists is the United States, which is likely to come under pressure yet again from its allies to cut its huge budget deficit.

"The foreign ministers who come to this country are more than interested in what we do about this problem," Brady says. "I tell them, we're going to get there one way or another."

The red ink in the government's accounts, expected to rise to \$163 billion this year, is a root cause of inflation because it soaks up scarce resources and domestic savings at a time when the economy is running close to full capacity.

This means not only that the nation must import vast amounts of capital every year — the mirror image of the trade deficit — but also that the federal reserve has had to raise interest rates steadily to let some steam out of the economy.

With some tentative signs emerging that U.S. growth is finally slowing, the Central Bank's Chairman, Alan Greenspan, has indicated that he would not push rates any higher for

now. West Germany's Central Bank also signalled a pause in its credit tightening recently by lowering a key interest rate.

"Whatever was exercising the Germans a few months ago has stopped. They don't seem too concerned at the moment," a senior U.S. official said.

But central bankers, while crossing their fingers that the worst is over, are not declaring victory over inflation yet.

"Governments and central banks stand ready to respond promptly if further policy action turns out to be required," Bank of England Governor Robin Leigh-Pemberton said last week.

Some economists say the threat of U.S. inflation to the world economy is so severe that industrial nations should let the dollar rise. A higher dollar would make U.S. imports cheaper and dampen growth by hurting American exporters.

"Having a higher dollar for a temporary period is preferable to ending up with higher interest rates later on," said Jim O'Neill, an economist with Swiss Bank Corp in London.

But the senior U.S. official said he had not detected any support within the group of seven industrial nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada — for a change in the G-7's exchange-rate arrangements.

"I'd be surprised if it was a big

subject" at the meetings, he said. His comments implied that central banks will continue to sell dollars if necessary to prevent the dollar from rising beyond 1.90 West German marks.

The G-7 has become remarkably adept in its currency-market intervention and adjustment of interest rates to keep exchange rates within fairly narrow bounds. Friday's dollar rate of 1.8730 marks was virtually the same as it was in September.

There is little enthusiasm overseas for a stronger dollar, which would spell higher import prices for Japan, Britain, West Germany and other countries striving to curb inflation.

"It's in our common interest that exchange rates remain in a range that all sides can live with," a European economic official based in Washington said.

Robert Solomon, a former Fed official who is now at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank, said it would be "nutty and perverse" to let the dollar go up given the big U.S. trade deficit, he said.

David Hale of Kemper Financial Services Inc. agreed and said financial markets and policymakers will conclude by summer that another 5 to 10 per cent dollar decline is needed.

For the first time in three years Japan's year-on-year rate of export growth, after adjusting for inflation, is surpassing that of the United States, Hale calculated.

Chinese assail government policies

PEKING (Agencies) — China's premier Li Peng came under fire from parliamentary delegates who are angry over government policies they called vague, misguided and out of control.

With unusual frankness, delegates at the annual session of the National People's Congress criticised the premier's keynote speech that called for several years of austerity to slow China's worst inflation rate for 40 years.

"I don't think measures to scale down capital construction mentioned in the report are specific," the official New China News Agency quoted one delegate as saying.

"If the report fails to show us the exact size to which capital construction will be reduced, I am afraid the economic revamping may be more words than deeds," said Zhang Jingcheng, a delegate from Hubei province in central China.

Li said in his speech that economic growth had to be slowed as part of a drive to check inflation that last year hit 18.5 per cent, its highest level since 1949.

Western diplomats have said the criticism of Li, a favourite of party hardliners, may be an attempt to show that responsibility for setbacks should be shared by members of the leadership.

Communist Party chief Zhao

Ziyang, a key ally of architect of reform Deng Xiaoping, has come under fire for economic failures. Diplomats said the attacks on Li's policies may be designed to deflect some of the pressure from Zhao.

The strong criticism followed two days of reports in the official media of failures in policies linked to the premier.

Deng was quoted earlier as saying neglect of education was the government's biggest mistake of the last 10 years. Li was the former head of the state education commission.

On Saturday, the media quoted a delegate of a parliamentary consulting body who was critical of a huge hydroelectric power plant, often seen as the premier's pet project.

Several delegates from the People's Liberation Army, normally a staunch supporter of party directives, said Li's speech was weak on measures to improve social morality, according to the official news agency.

Other delegates said China's policies were too fickle and one asked why communist leaders did not seem to practise what they preached.

Teacher Xu Yaqi complained that few young people wanted to become teachers.

"She then asked why leaders who claim to care about education don't urge their own children to become teachers instead of engaging in commercial activities," the official agency said.

One delegate said five billion yuan (\$1.3 billion) in additional funds for education this year was inadequate. Another said construction projects, currency issues and institutional spending had spun out of control.

Li told parliamentary delegates at a meeting Saturday that economic growth had to be slowed down but it should not be curbed too drastically.

"We don't want to see a further weakening of the energy, agriculture, communications and raw materials sectors that are weak links in our economy," he said.

Meanwhile, China will cut military spending about six per cent in real terms this year despite opposition from some military officers, the official press has reported.

The Xinhua News Agency said officers met with President Yang Shangkun and called for higher defence spending and advanced equipment for the army.

Yang denied their requests, saying China's defence spending would rise only when the economy improved. Yang also is vice

chairman of the Central Military Commission, which sets military policy.

Xinhua carried two reports on the subject. Both were unusual for revealing disagreements between the People's Liberation Army and the government. A series of cuts in defence spending over the last few years is known to have been unpopular with the military.

China proposed granting the military 24.33 billion yuan (\$6.5 billion), slightly more than last year's 21.76 billion yuan (\$5.8 billion).

Xinhua said that when inflation is considered, China's defence spending actually will fall six per cent next year. China currently is facing 36 per cent inflation, the highest since the communist takeover in 1949.

Lin Minpu, deputy director of the General Logistics Department of the People's Liberation Army, said that over the past few years the growth rate of the military budget has been much lower than inflation.

In addition, he said defence's share of the overall budget has been shrinking, Xinhua reported.

From 1950 to 1980, defence spending accounted for 17.2 per cent of China's state expenditures. In 1988, he said, it accounted for 7.49 per cent.

World Bank, IMF may reassess roles

WASHINGTON (AP) — A feud is smoldering between two world financial institutions with billions of dollars to lend and the power to make deeply indebted countries tighten their belts.

The disagreement between the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) centres on their division of work. Which of them should tell governments to devalue their currencies? Which of them should require cuts in government spending? Which of them should look at long-term problems?

The 151 governments that own the World Bank and the IMF

meet this week in Washington, and their ministers of finance and central bankers will have a lot to say about Third World debt, now over \$1.2 trillion. What the two organisations can do about it depends on clearing up just what their roles should be, or even whether they should be merged.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady has floated some new ideas on how to reduce the debt, but critics are saying they may be too little and too late. Other governments are expected to suggest more extensive actions.

Before the meetings open, President Barber Conable of the World Bank and Managing Director Michel Camdessus of the IMF will try to agree on how to cooperate. Ten leading governments have asked Lamberto Dini, the No. 2 at the IMF's central bank, to report on improving the relations between the two institutions.

"If they don't get their act together, there's going to be more pressure to merge them," said C. Fred Bergsten, who heads the private Institute for International Economics.

"That would be a mistake, because they would only have to be separated again after a few years," he said. Bergsten used to be in charge

of U.S. relations with them as assistant secretary of the treasury for international affairs.

Both organisations are linked to the United Nations, but they can bring more direct pressure on governments than the world body. By giving or holding back loans and by the conditions they set, the lending institutions can sometimes make or break governments.

Their conditions can lead to violence. Recently, a reduction in government subsidies urged by the IMF resulted in an increase in bus fares that touched off riots in Venezuela. The government said 246 people were killed in that violence.

The World Bank and IMF were set up in 1944 as World War II neared an end. Western leaders were hoping to nip in the bud the economic problems that had twice helped to plunge the world into bloody conflict.

The bank, officially the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, was to help the countries devastated by the war to recover a decent standard of living. As they did, the bank turned to the Third World, making easy, long-term loans for schools, hospitals, farms, roads, ports — the basic needs of poor countries.

India and Brazil were among the biggest borrowers.

The IMF's job was to keep currencies stable. Big shifts in currency values upset world trade, and bad trade relations can lead to bad political relations. As recently as 1970s it was helping Britain and Italy with such problems.

Eventually the fund focused its efforts on the Third World, where overvalued local currencies were making trade difficult. Often the exchange rates were only part of a country's problem. The fund offered big loans and mobilised more from private banks.

To get the loans, borrowing governments had to promise changes in their policies — austerity programmes, often including devaluations, to put the debtors in better shape to keep up with their debts.

Billions went to Brazil, Mexico and other major debtors. In 1985 James Baker, then U.S. secretary of the treasury, said the way out of the debt problem was more loans and more policy changes by the borrowers. He called on the bank to map out longer-term programmes for them, since their problems went too deep to be solved in a few years and the bank was used to taking the long view. It had always made some "policy-making" loans. Now it started making more.

So the World Bank and the IMF, with headquarters facing one another in downtown Washington, found their jobs overlapping more and more. They approached problems from different viewpoints.

Neither bank nor fund officials want to be quoted about their differences, except to say that they try hard to work together. But some acknowledge privately that they have occasionally given countries contradictory advice.

Last October, the bank offered \$700 million worth of loans to Argentina. The fund had been negotiating with Argentina for years, but could not get the government of President Raul Alfonsin to meet its conditions.

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Sunday, March 26, 1989
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Pound Sterling	924.3	933.9	Swedish crown	84.1	84.9	
Deutschmark	206.8	209.7	Italian lira (for 100)	39.0	39.4	
Swiss franc	330.2	333.6	Belgian franc (for 10)	137.3	138.4	

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Cinema
PLAZA
STRIPES
Performances 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Recalde keeps slim lead

NAIROBI (AP) — Jorge Recalde had a slim lead over teammate Massimo "Miki" Biasion as they raced toward Nairobi ahead of a diminishing field of cars Sunday to end the second leg of the Marlboro Safari rally.

Recalde, an Argentinean making his debut with a Lancia Delta integrale in the gruelling race, had a total of 4:11:01 penalty points at Kakamega, 394 kilometres (245 miles) northwest of Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

Biasion, who last year gave the Italian-made Lancia its first Safari rally victory after 14 attempts, had accumulated 4:16:27 penalty points. The Italian also was the 1988 world rally champion.

Recalde was third off the ramp at Thursday's start, but snatched the lead from Biasion and Sweden's Per Eklund the same night as the vehicles raced to Nairobi from Southeastern Kenya. Eklund, driving a Nissan 200SX, had fallen out of the top 10 at Sunday's departure from Kakamega.

The Lancias' closest rival, Sweden's Bjorn Waldegaard in a Toyota Supra, was 38 minutes and 56 seconds behind Biasion with 4:55:23 penalty points.

Other drivers in the top 10 were Kenyan Mike Kirkland, in a Nissan 200 SX, 5:02:11; Kenyan Vic Preston Jr. in a Nissan 200SX, 5:51:21; Sweden's Stig Blomqvist in a Volkswagen Golf GTI 16V, 6:37:39; Kenyan Ian Duncan in a Toyota Supra, 7:35:28; New Zealand's Peter "Possum" Bourne in a Subaru, 7:39:45; Kenyan Jim Heather-Hayes in a Subaru, 8:11:57; and Italian Alessandro Fiori in a private entry Lancia, 8:36:12.

Senna sets Rio record

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — World Champion Ayrton Senna of Brazil set an unofficial track record Saturday to win the pole position for Sunday's Formula-1 auto race of the season.

Senna, in a McLaren-Honda, clocked a fast lap of 1 minute, 25.302 seconds around Rio's 3.1-mile (5.03-kilometre) Nelson Piquet race track, two-tenths of a second faster than his own unofficial record set in 1986. It was more than 2.7 seconds faster than his pole position time last year.

Italy's Riccardo Patrese, who surprised everyone with the quickest lap Friday in a Williams-Renault, failed to improve on Saturday. But his time of 1:26.172 in Friday's trials gave him second place on the starting grid.

Gerhard Berger of Austria, who also did not improve his time from Friday, was third in a Ferrari.

Belgian driver Thierry Boutsen bettered his time by nearly a full second Saturday to take fourth in

the other Williams-Renault.

In the third row were two-time world champion Alain Prost of France, who will start first in a McLaren-Honda, and England's Nigel Mansell, who took sixth in the other Ferrari.

Senna's performance delighted the more than 10,000 fans who lined the wooden bleachers under a scorching sun and 102-degree Fahrenheit (38.3 Celsius) heat to cheer on the driver.

"I'm very happy with my time, but it could have been better," Senna said.

Official track records are established during the races themselves. Rio's is 1:32.953, set by Austria's Gerhard Berger in the 1988 Grand Prix.

In seventh place was Italy's Ivan Capelli in a March-Judd, while Derek Warwick of England finished eighth in an Arrows-Ford.

Three-time world champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil, struggling with suspension problems in his Lotus-Judd, managed ninth place.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Sochaux move up on leaders

PARIS (R) — Two goals from striker Stephane Paille propelled the exciting young Sochaux team into second place in the French League, just two points behind leaders Paris St. Germain Saturday. With the club from the capital held to a goalless draw in St. Etienne and title-chasing Marseille not in action, Sochaux took advantage and improved their championship chances with an impressive 2-0 home win over Lille. Paille, recently dropped from the national team by Michel Platini, struck in the seventh and 58th minutes, his 12th and 13th goals of the season. Sochaux now have 56 points to 58 for the leaders who, despite their reputation for defensive soccer, did almost all the attacking in St. Etienne without reaping the reward they deserved.

Bayern still unbeaten after 23 games

BONN (R) — League leaders Bayern Munich beat Bayer Leverkusen 2-0 Saturday to stretch their unbeaten run in the West German first division this season to 23 games. Second-placed Cologne dispatched Stuttgart 3-0 to stay five points behind Bayern while defending champions Werder Bremen lost 3-1 at Borussia Dortmund to slip seven points adrift of the leaders. Bayern, seeking their 11th Bundesliga title, must have feared a rare scoreless draw at home as a tenacious Leverkusen defence held out for 73 minutes. But Ludwig Kogel then drew Leverkusen goalkeeper Ruediger Vollborn out of position and passed to Olaf Thon who scored from close range. Armin Eck made it 2-0 with a hard drive from 20 metres in the 78th minute.

Syria defeats Yemen 2-0 in World Cup play

LATTAKIA (AP) — Syria defeated North Yemen 2-0 in a World Cup qualifying match Saturday in this northern port city. Syria dominated play throughout the game, with the Yemeni players on the defensive. The first half ended 1-0 after Syrian player Walid Abu Sill headed the ball into the net on a pass from Walid Nasser. Nizar Mahrouq scored Syria's second goal. The referee from the United Arab Emirates cancelled one Syrian goal and expelled one Yemeni player from the game. Syria won the earlier game against Yemen in San'a 1-0. It faces Saudi Arabia for the second of their West Asia group 2 qualifying games on March 30. Saudi Arabia won the first game 5-4 on March 15.

Seton Hall, Michigan reach semis

NEW YORK (R) — Andrew Gaze's outside shooting and the inside work of Darryl Walker led Seton Hall to a 84-61 win over Nevada-Las Vegas on Saturday to give them their first-ever trip to the final four in the U.S. college basketball championship. Gaze, who starred for Australia in the Seoul Olympics, scored 19 points and Walker added 12 points and pulled down 15 rebounds for Seton Hall, who will play the winner of Sunday's Georgetown-Duke game next week in Seattle. Also advancing to the tournament semifinals were Michigan, who pounded Virginia 102-65. Glen Rice and Sean Higgins combined for 63 points to help Michigan book their first trip to the final four since losing to Indiana in the championship final in 1976. Michigan are being coached by Steve Fisher, who took over before the playoffs from long-time coach Bill Frieder who was dropped after he announced he would be coaching next season at Arizona State.

Loss deepens Wilander's woes

KEY BISCAIYNE, Florida (Agencies) — The slowest start of Mats Wilander's career faltered more Saturday when the world's second-ranked tennis player lost to Argentina's Alberto Mancini in the third round of the international players championships.

Mancini, seeded 31st in this two-week tournament, rallied after losing the first set to upset the defending champion 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. He hurt Wilander repeatedly with a strong cross-court backhand the Swede said is among the best he's ever seen.

"I knew he was really good but I didn't think he could keep it up for that long," said Wilander, who won three Grand Slam events in 1988 but is off to a 3-3 start this year.

Wilander lost his no. 1 ranking after losing to Ramesh Krishnan in the second round of the Australian Open. He entered the international players championships with a 1-2 record after Mikael Pernfors beat him in a first-round match at the WCT championships in Dallas.

Twelfth-seeded Yannick Noah avoided an upset by overcoming a two-set deficit to defeat Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union 5-7, 6-7 (8-6), 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

Yugoslavs given life bans for ref assaults

GENEVA (R) — Two Yugoslav players have been banned for life from all European Football Union (UEFA) competitions for assaulting a referee during an international club tournament last July.

UEFA said Desko Vlasev-Jevic spat on the referee and then kicked him violently on the left shin. Goran Ivanovic, the Yugoslav club's captain, was suspended until July 31, 1992, for jostling the referee, pushing him and refusing to leave the field after being sent off in the second half because of repeated violent conduct.

Milan Dorovic was banned until July 31, 1997, for kicking a linesman on the buttocks after the match.

of Sweden overcame a slow start to beat Mexican Leo Lavalie 1-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4.

Demongeot, rated thirty places below Maleeva at number thirty-eight in the world rankings, served with authority and took advantage of Maleeva's inability to find any rhythm on her normally reliable groundstrokes in the first set.

Demongeot opened the second set with a 4-0 lead, breaking the Bulgarian, who complained of a sore right foot, with several skillful net approaches in the first and third games.

The Frenchwoman, who pos-

sesses one of the best first serves in women's tennis, said she was confident she could beat Maleeva if her serve and her net game held up.

"I think my serve is very good right now. I tried to come to the net because the wind made it hard to hit from the baseline and she has very good backcourt strokes too," said Demongeot.

Sabatini, third in the world, controlled the match against Cordwell by playing serve-and-volley on her own serve, while keeping the 36th-ranked Cordwell away from the net with her trademark topspin passing shots.

Paper claims Rose owed \$1/2m

CINCINNATI (AP) — Pete Rose's debts totalled nearly \$500,000 when he left the Cincinnati Reds in 1978 and the team's former general manager thought Rose's "legs may get broken" because of gambling, a newspaper said Friday.

The Cincinnati Post reported that Dick Wagner, the Red's former executive vice president, discussed Rose's alleged gambling at several meetings. Wagner did not comment on the report, but the newspaper said its source was a former Reds official who attended the meetings.

"Pete Rose's legs may get broken when his playing days are over," Wagner was quoted as saying.

Rose, now the Reds' manager, left the team after 1978 as a free agent and signed a four-year, \$3.2-million contract with the Philadelphia Phillies.

The source was quoted as saying Rose "had debts close to a half million when he left the Reds."

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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A SAFE, IF UNUSUAL, LEAD

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 10 9 3
♥ A 7 4
♦ 6 3
♣ K 10 5

EAST
♠ 7 6
♥ J 8
♦ A 10 9 5 3
♣ 9 7 5

SOUTH
♠ J 8 5 2
♥ Q 6 2
♦ A K Q
♣ A J 9

The bidding:
South - West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: ?
In bridge, nothing is sacrosanct. An opening lead which would be considered insane in some circumstances could be completely safe in others. Here's a case.

North-South used a simple Stayman sequence to reach an excellent, though second-best, contract of four spades—we would prefer three no trump. Looking at his own hand, West was sure he would find little of use in his partner's hand. He was

tempted to lead a heart, but he was afraid that this might cost a trick. At the same time, he wanted to retain the lead in case a heart suit was discovered.

He found a simple, yet logical solution—he led the ace of trumps! Now anyone who, as a regular diet, leads the ace from an ace-queen combination will be looked on askance by the rest of the bridge world, but think about it here.

If South has the king of spades, the lead won't cost a thing—West will still come to two spade tricks. And should the king happen to be in the North hand, declarer is unlikely to play West for the queen, so her majesty is still a heavy favorite to win a trick.

West considered shifting to a low heart at trick two, in case his partner held a doubleton queen. But he decided that it was doubtful whether South would have opened one no trump with only a jack in the major suits. His best chance, therefore, was to hope that East held a singleton heart, so he cashed the ace of hearts and continued the suit. East ruffed and elected to try to drop the queen of trumps—down one.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1989

YOUR HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Hightner Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Cupid's arrows will be flying quite freely today in some of the most unusual places, and between some of the most unlikely folks. The cycle behind all this matchmaking will last a few days.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Select a new project that will amplify your enthusiasm and pioneering spirit. You are in a productive cycle. Many wishes can come true.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Guard profits and finances from any shady deals. Someone working behind the scenes does not have your best interests at heart.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Fulfill promises that you make. Dig into a workload and stick with it until it is finished. Help comes from an ally.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You are more self-assured and coordinated than usual. Remember documents that need to be completed and mailed.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Money matters preoccupy your time. Patience is needed to handle a domestic matter. Form a closer alliance with a superior or VIP.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Some welcome information arrives

just in time. You depart from normal routines and have a pleasant experience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Gather more information and data to determine if you are ready to start on a new project. Take appropriate steps to counsel siblings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A surprising amount of light-hearted fun fills the day. Men are accomplished than was planned. Make a successful shopping tour.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A light-hearted friend calls with a surprise invitation. Romance and a more stimulating social life can help your disposition.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't expect secrets to be kept. A superior may have an eye on your performance. You are in a good mood to celebrate your success.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Not a good day to speculate on anything but the opposite sex, where a warm heart may be waiting for an invitation.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You are in a cycle of gain. Relationships have been running smoother. Business and career show new promise. Stay on the path.

THE Daily Crossword by Robert O. Wilson

ACROSS

- Weep noisily
- Louvers
- Dissonant
- Allege
- Certain crew
- Gr. letter
- For each
- Laughter sound
- Art stand
- Made angry
- Embroidered cloth
- Palm fruits
- Old part
- Haggard novel
- Season
- Sluggishness
- Of the sea
- Impetuous
- Winglike
- Saying
- Clrus fruit
- Rule
- Laughed loudly
- Most indigent
- Begrudge
- Donkey
- Ready for battle
- Man of tables
- Conn. city
- Chafed
- Cut short
- Up to that
- Shred
- Edible part
- Blackjack expression
- Stickum
- Person doped
- Sea duck
- Printer's measure
- cum laude
- Bitter drug
- Speaks wildly
- Handle
- Old World rodent
- With mirth
- Egg
- Readied for print
- stones

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

DOWN

- Flavorful
- Musical drama
- Head over
- Tennis term
- Recited
- Shocked
- Yap
- stones
- Pittsburgh athlete
- Singe
- Jedicate
- Corroded
- Crony
- Crowed
- Portable light
- Jacinto
- Ship
- Blackjack
- Alleviated
- Horsehoes
- score
- another
- cum laude
- Speaks wildly
- Handle
- Old World rodent
- With mirth
- Egg
- Readied for print
- stones
- Boredom
- Noncom
- Hunter in the sky
- Squash and melon
- War god
- Assistant
- Elac. unit
- Large snake
- Table soup
- Sea god

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TCHAB
PLITO
SULTYS
REHFIE

I'll never take a boat
SOME PEOPLE DON'T TRUST THE OCEAN, BECAUSE THEY'RE CONVINCED THERE'S SOMETHING...

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "OCEAN" IT

Yesterday's Jumble: KNEEL AXOM HERALD SATIRE
Answer: His footprints on the sands of time left only this—THE MARKS OF A HEEL

Pope calls for freedom, peace in Easter sermon

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul, in his Easter Sunday message to the world, appealed for an end to religious persecution, oppression and war in a world he described as seemingly bent on self-destruction.

The Pope, addressing about 200,000 people gathered under bright blue skies in St. Peter's Square and millions more watching on television in 47 nations, made special mention of Lebanon where 70 people have been killed in 12 days of the worst fighting seen in the country for five years.

He invoked the spirit of the rising Christ to bring new hope to the world's peoples and called on man to respect nature and crea-

tion in "today's world which in so many ways seems to be rushing headlong towards self-destruction and death."

He said God was present "where the proclamation of Easter has not yet reached or is hindered, where consciences are oppressed, where Christ's faithful cannot openly invoke him or suffer persecution because of their love for him and his church."

Religious freedom, although safeguarded by national constitutions and international conventions "is often today trampled upon in many different ways," he added.

"God likewise passes where, on the troubled and bloodstained

horizon of various countries... men, though they are brothers, fight one another in a scene of destruction and hatred as is still happening in the ever beloved and tormented Lebanon."

In the twice-yearly *urbi et orbi* (to the city and the world) message, the pontiff also remembered the frightened and the suffering.

He said God was a source of comfort "where there do not exist conditions worthy of a truly human life through lack of housing, promiscuity, vagrancy... where the innocence of children is exploited and corrupted."

The Pope ended his address from the red-draped central bal-



Pope John Paul

cony of the largest church in Christendom by wishing the world a happy Easter in 53 languages including Slovak, Croatian, Hebrew, Swahili, Tamil, Russian and Albanian.

Gorbachev rejects 'great leap forward' as country votes

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev rejected Kremlin rebel Boris Yeltsin's demands for faster reform as millions of people voted across the country Sunday in the first contested election for 70 years.

"We must not commit stupidities, try great leaps forward or over-reach ourselves because we could put the people's future at risk," Gorbachev told reporters in a clear reference to Yeltsin just after casting his own vote.

Yeltsin, who according to initial exit polls conducted by foreign news organisations in Moscow is likely to sweep home as the capital's deputy in a new-style Soviet parliament, argues for rapid radical changes as the only way out of crisis.

The craggy, white-haired Siberian, ousted from the ruling Politburo a year ago for suggesting his colleagues were too cautious, said he expected groups to be formed in the reshaped legislature to promote radical policies.

Speaking in pouring rain after voting near the city centre, Yeltsin said opponents within the party had tried to undermine his campaign, during which he won mass popular support with demands for an end to official privilege.

In the direct language which

marks his style, he said a Kremlin Commission set up to decide whether he had violated communist discipline with his free-wheeling remarks in the run-up to the vote was part of the drive against him.

"I think it is crystal clear that this was done as a way of influencing the election... one could write not a novel but a thriller (about my campaign)," 57-year-old Yeltsin said.

"I am not against the party and the party is not against me. I am against individual comrades and apparatus," he told reporters.

Yeltsin's battle to win the Moscow seat in what is officially called the country's Electoral District Number One, has emerged as a significant contest in the vote for a Congress of People's Deputies with power to control government.

But reformers of different hues have also appeared all over the country, challenging old-style politicians they accuse of having led the Soviet Union into a social, economic and environmental

crisis. Some 90 minutes earlier his Politburo colleague Yegor Ligachev, whom Yeltsin regards as his chief conservative opponent, arrived with his wife at the same polling station at a physics research institute.

Asked whether he had voted for Yeltsin or the populist politician's opponent, Zil Limousine Plant Director Yevgeny Brakov, Ligachev declared with a grin: "I voted for the worthiest candidate."

"And anyway, the vote is secret," he added with a chuckle.

Communists vote

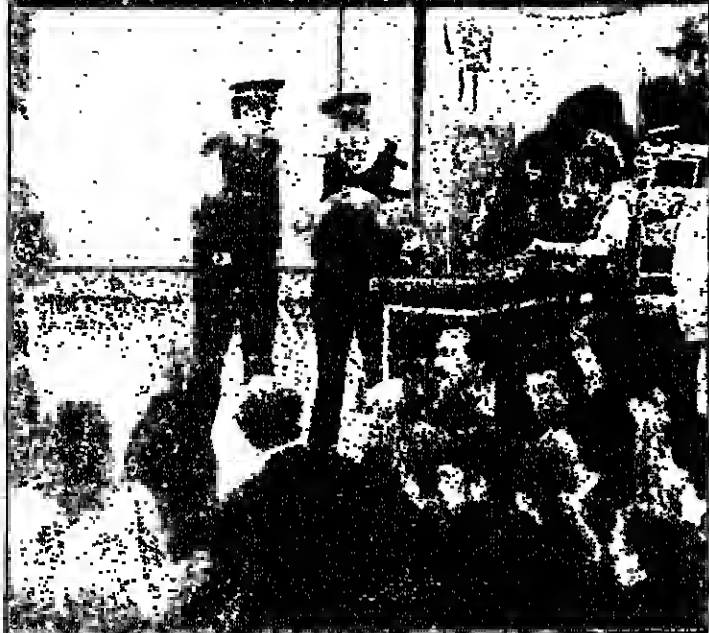
Soviet communists cast their ballots from space Sunday, then poked fun at a Moscow bureaucrat who inadvertently sent one of them an order to appear in his office, the TASS news agency said.

Sergei Krikalev, Valery Polyakov and Alexander Volkov transmitted their choice of candidate in the elections from aboard the Mir space station to Earth by radio, TASS said.

"The spacemen had neither a ballot-box nor even ballot papers," and were forced to radio their choice to ground control in a less-than-secret ballot, TASS said.

HAMBURG	14:55	BA 920	LAST CALL	BA
ROME	14:55	BA 554	LAST CALL	BA
MILAN	15:00	BA 563	LAST CALL	BA
ZURICH	15:00	BA 718	CHECK IN AT	BA
BRUSSELS	15:00	BA 605	DEPARTED	BA
GENEVA	15:30	BA 730		BA
TEL AVIV	15:35	BA 316	HOW SOARING GAT	BA
GALE	15:40	BA 746		BA

Please go through to the Departure Lounge



Armed police in a high profile security operation patrol the check-in lines at terminal four of Heathrow airport yesterday.

IBM boycott sparks debate

LONDON (AP) — Other companies will consider U.S. computer giant International Business Machines Corporation's (IBM) advice for employees to stay off U.S. airlines because of warnings of a possible hijacking, the head of Britain's largest business organisation said Saturday.

"When IBM decides there is something to be concerned about, other companies will look at it very carefully — as they should, because IBM has an enviable management record," said John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, which represents some 250,000 businesses.

IBM said Friday it had notified employees to avoid travelling on U.S. air carriers from Europe and the Middle East until the end of April because of a U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) warning of a possible hijacking in Europe.

Banham said companies that had a lot of staff travelling around the world would have to make their own decisions on whether to take similar action.

"It's worth remembering that IBM must have more people in the air at any one time than

almost any other company, so they have a particularly acute problem," he said. IBM employs 163,904 people outside the United States.

Michael Mates, chairman of the House of Commons Select Committee on Defence and a member of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's governing Conservative Party, said the IBM decision could have a worldwide "snowball effect."

News of the hijack warning was first reported in Britain's Daily Express newspaper. The FAA then confirmed Thursday it had issued a security bulletin to airports and carriers March 16 about "the possibility of a hijacking of a U.S. airliner in Western Europe."

Mates said publicising warnings to airlines opened the door to "every outcase in the world" to telephone an airline for any reason.

At Britain's airports, travellers faced delays of up to four hours because of stringent security checks and air traffic restrictions, but many flights were taking off less than an hour behind schedule.

Imperial funeral — a rare spectacle for republican Austria

By Michael Wise
Reuters

VIENNA — The funeral this week of Austro-Hungary's last empress, Zita, will provide Vienna with a spectacle not witnessed since the downfall of the Habsburg monarchy more than 70 years ago.

The ceremony, expected to draw thousands of Hungarians across the border to pay homage to their former queen, is proving an awkward occasion for Austria's socialist-led government.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky insists that this will be no state funeral, while Vice Chancellor Alois Mock of the conservative People's Party says he is working to ensure the former empress receives the respect to which she is entitled.

The body of Zita, who died in exile in Switzerland March 14 at the age of 96, returns to Vienna Thursday evening to lie in state until April 1 at St. Stephen's Cathedral in this former imperial capital.

On that day, a requiem mass in the cathedral will be attended by members of some of Europe's surviving royal families along with Austrians nostalgic for imperial grandeur and many simply curious for a glimpse of near-vanished tradition.

In an unusual tribute to their royal past, the ambassadors of communist Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland, whose territory helped form the vast empire of 50 million subjects over whom Habsburgs ruled for 640 years, will be present.

After the requiem Zita's coffin, drawn by six horses on a black-draped carriage last used for Emperor Franz Josef's funeral in 1916, will make its way through Vienna for burial in the Habsburg family crypt beneath the church of the Capuchins.

There will be a 21-gun salute. The ceremony will be covered by Austrian television and more than a dozen foreign networks. The family will bear funeral costs although police protection is expected to be footed by Austrian taxpayers.

Political scientists say that despite a proliferation of books about Habsburg rule in recent years only about two per cent of Austrians would hark a return to some form of monarchy.

Zita and her husband Emperor Karl I left Vienna in 1918 when the monarchy collapsed after World War I.

As soon as her death was announced, Mock, also foreign minister, praised Zita as a "great personage of history" who had "come to terms with an extraordinarily difficult life."

Later in the day, the Foreign Ministry Press Office issued a seven-page statement headed "Funeral Ceremony for I.M. (imperial majesty) Empress and Queen Zita."

The document listed members of the funeral organising committee by their titles — archduke, countess and prince — the public use of which has been outlawed here since 1919.

Several Socialist-ruled groups condemned Mock's handling of the affair. Greens parliamentarian Peter Pilz termed it an "extraordinary presumption and absurdity."

Vranitzky insisted there would be no government involvement in the funeral, sending regrets to the Habsburgs that April 1 he would be away on a long-planned state trip to Portugal.

The Socialist Party has had an uneasy relationship with the former imperial family.

Zita's eldest son and would-be heir to the throne, former Archduke Otto, made a pledge of loyalty to the republic in 1961 but the Socialists doubted its validity for over a decade.

The former empress never offered such allegiance and was barred from returning to Austria for 63 years until 1982.

Although Mock, whose party is a junior coalition partner, said the cabinet decided an army honour guard would take part, the defence ministry later decided this would consist of some 50 uniformed soldiers serving on an entirely voluntary basis.

Complicating matters will be the presence of President Kurt Waldheim, shunned by Western leaders due to his alleged World War II service in a German army unit involved in war crimes.

Several of Zita's grandchildren last year signed a petition demanding the resignation of Waldheim, who denies any wrongdoing.

Prince Willy von Thurn und Taxis, taking charge of funeral protocol, denied a press report that the family had asked Waldheim to stay away.

"We were perfectly aware of the Waldheim problem but we laughed it off because we knew the prince of Liechtenstein would sit beside him," Thurn und Taxis said.

Prince Franz Josef II of Liechtenstein last August attacked Western politicians for criticising Waldheim.

Among royalty who have accepted invitations to attend the funeral are the heir to the Belgian throne Prince Albert and his wife Princess Paola, Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg, Prince Albert of Monaco, the count of Madrid who is the father of Spain's King Juan Carlos, and Jordan's Prince Raad Ibn Zaid.



Empress Zita on her way in the imperial coach to her husband's coronation as king of Hungary in 1916.

COLUMN

'The pill made me do it'

CHICAGO (R) — A woman and her daughter have filed a \$21 million lawsuit against an American drug company, claiming a sleeping pill caused her to shoot and kill her 83-year-old mother, according to court documents. No Grundberg of Utah sued the Kalamazoo, Michigan-based Upjohn Company in U.S. district court in Salt Lake City. Grundberg, 58, had been charged with murder in Saint George, Utah, but a judge dismissed the charge after two doctors testified she had become involuntarily intoxicated by the pill, documents said. The suit alleges the company failed to provide warnings of possible consequences of taking the halcion sleeping pill. Grundberg alleges that as a direct result of taking halcion "and through no fault of her own, plaintiff shot her mother... resulting in her death," according to court documents.

An Upjohn spokeswoman said the company does not comment on pending litigation. Grundberg's daughter, Janice Gray, is seeking \$15 million in damages, according to the court documents.

Paper pays money to Jagger, Hall

LONDON (R) — Rolling Stone Mick Jagger and his companion American model Jerry Hall are to receive damages from a British newspaper which published photographs of them nude in the bath. The People, a racy tabloid, said it had been wrong to print the pictures in breach of the couple's copyright. "We have agreed to pay them a sum of damages and are sincerely sorry for the embarrassment and distress caused by publication..." the newspaper said on its front page. The newspaper did not disclose how much money Jagger and Hall would receive or who gave it the pictures. The photographs, carrying the headlines "Jumping Jack Flash is a Splash" and "Jerry Hall Bares All," were snapped during what the newspaper described as a get-away weekend in Ireland.

Is it a quake? No it is a Napoli goal

NAPLES (R) — Italians living next to Naples' soccer stadium fear their homes may fall down if the division Napoli keep scoring goals. Residents Saturday said 128 families in flats near the stadium had written to the mayor of Naples demanding urgent structural tests because the roar of fans when the team scored was causing "frightening vibrations."

The petition follows a European UEFA cup match last week against Italian Juventus when Napoli, captained by Argentine World Cup star Diego Maradona, qualified for the semi-finals with a goal in the last minute of extra time. Residents said the roar from San Paolo stadium was so loud walls and floors shook, causing people to panic and run into the street because they thought an earthquake had hit the city. San Paolo, which holds 80,000 fans, is being modernised for next year's World Cup soccer finals in Italy.

Old coins found in France

AMIENS, France (AP) — A construction crew bulldozing a factory site uncovered a cache of about 8,000 silver and copper Roman coins dating from the third century A.D., archaeologists say. The coins were in perfect condition 1,700 years after they were buried in two jars at the time of barbarian invasions of northern France, said Tahar Ben Redjeb, an archaeologist for the regional department of historical antiquities.

The weather at major world capitals & cities

	TEMP.	WIND	WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	06 43 14	57	Cloud
ATHENS	09 48 14	57	Cloud
BAHRAIN	19 06 27	81	Clear
BANGKOK	27 31 34	88	Clear
Buenos Aires	15 59 24	75	Rain
CAIRO	11 14 14	54	Clear
CHICAGO	06 44 17	53	Rain
COPENHAGEN	03 37 09	43	Clear
FRANKFURT	-02 25 12	54	Clear
GENEVA	03 37 17	63	Clear
HONG KONG	15 59 16	61	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	07 49 13	56	Clear
LONDON	06 48 17	63	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	10 50 17	52	Clear
MADRID	01 34 23	73	Clear
MECCA	22 72 39	102	Clear
MUMBAI	13 65 25	76	Clear
MONTREAL	02 32 03	57	Rain
MOSCOW	02 36 05	46	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	18 64 32	89	Cloudy
NEW YORK	08 38 17	68	Clear
PARIS	09 48 19	66	Clear
ROME	02 38 22	72	Clear
TOKYO	07 45 14	57	Cloudy
VIENNA	05 41 19	65	Clear

M-A indicates missing information.

Laotians elect first parliament

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — Citizens choosing their ruling national council for the first time voted Sunday in polling that Lao officials called a step toward "socialist democracy," but which some foreign analysts said was just for show.

Acting President Phoumi Vongvichit, who turns 80 next month, dismissed foreign reports of major leadership changes and told reporters at a polling station: "After the elections, there will be no political changes. Policy and direction remain unchanged."

At another polling station, Premier Kaysonke Phommavhane, 68, said, "The people won't let me quit. ... I am still the prime minister."

When polling ended in the evening, 10 officials at one polling station sat in a ring and turned

a ballot box upside down to dump the ballots on straw mats. They marked the tally on a chalk board. Turnout at the station was more than 98 per cent, they said.

Thailand's ambassador to Laos and the Thai media said last week that some elderly officials may retire after the election, including Kaysonke, Phoumi and Sisomphon Lovansai, 72, chairman of the Supreme People's Council. Sisomphon refused to reply Sunday when asked if he would retire.

The citizens of this impoverished, southeast Asian nation for the first time were voting for members of the Supreme People's Council, the highest state body. Officials said 121 candidates are running for the 79 seats. Some 1.5 million people, those 18 years of age or older, are eligible

to vote out of the population of 3.8 million.

Officials said results from the country's 4,153 polling stations would be counted by hand, and the final tally would not be known for a week to 10 days.

Kaysonke said a new government will be formed after the new National Council, which is to convene in no more than 60 days after the vote, drafts communist Laos' first constitution. The draft will be finished in at most a year and a half, he said.

Kaysonke and Phoumi took leading roles in the decades of communist guerrilla struggle against the French colonial rulers and then the American-backed government in Vientiane, during the Vietnam war. Kaysonke has been premier since the communists took power in December

1975, and has led the party since co-founding it in 1955.

Hundreds of people already had lined up at polling stations at schools, temples and government offices in the capital by the time the polls opened in the morning. Folk songs blared through loudspeakers.

Many of the voters appeared confused. Some turned in unmarked ballots, and one 70-year-old grandmother asked a foreign reporter to mark her ballot. Although officials said voting was not compulsory, some citizens said they voted because they were not convinced there would be no penalty.

Officials said 121 candidates, about two-thirds of them Communist Party members, were running for the 79 seats.

Nepal envoy in India to settle trade crisis

NEW DELHI (R) — Nepal's foreign minister arrived in New Delhi Sunday for urgent talks to settle a trade dispute that worsened after India cut off the Himalayan kingdom's vital links to the rest of the world.

The minister, Shailendra Upadhyaya, is expected to discuss prospects of India re-opening 11 transit points it closed on Friday after 10-year-old trade treaties with Nepal expired.

Two other crossing points were left open to allow medicines and other emergency supplies into the landlocked kingdom from India. Kathmandu started rationing petrol Sunday to cope with the block on supplies from India which provides half Nepal's imports and most essential commodities.

Upadhyaya called for "normalising relations with friendly India" before he left for talks with his Indian counterpart P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Nepal, one of the world's 10 poorest countries, has been a leading advocate of an international treaty setting out the rights of landlocked countries, which it

believes are easily pressured by nations through which their trade must pass.

Kathmandu passionately opposes India's bid to tie the trade agreement to transit rights for Nepal. It says transit rights should be a permanent right but trade agreements should be reviewed periodically.

"We perfectly understand the feeling of India and it is very fair that these things are raised and we have a new arrangement," Upadhyaya told the Press Trust of India in Kathmandu.

Kathmandu is upset about its growing trade deficit with India, which last year reached three billion rupees (\$200 million), or about a third of its foreign exchange reserves.

India, on the other hand, is annoyed that Kathmandu has given duty concessions to other countries, making Indian goods less competitive diplomats said.

Nepal, sandwiched between India and China, has had a friendship pact with India for 39 years but New Delhi has become alarmed at Kathmandu's growing ties with China.



Fawn Hall leaving court Thursday after testifying at the North trial

Prosecution witnesses sympathetic to North

WASHINGTON (AP) — Travel for a moment the rocky road of the prosecution at Oliver North's Iran-contra trial — in an attempt to convict him, you have to rely on witnesses who are hostile to your case and sympathetic to the defense.

So far the prosecution's witnesses have included:

— Nicaraguan contra leader Adolfo Calero, who tells the jury North can't possibly have stolen \$4,300 in travellers' checks and describes the fired White House aide as "sort of a saviour" to the guerrillas.

— Former National Security adviser Robert McFarlane, who repeatedly states during five days of testimony that he's to blame for crimes North is accused of committing.

— Beer magnate Joseph

Coors. In front of the jury, Coors walks over to North and warmly shakes his hand.

What will the jurors remember? The handshake or that Coors acknowledged under questioning that North had given him the number of a Swiss Bank account to contribute money to the contras?

Then there's the tear-laden testimony of North's former secretary Fawn Hall, who praised North as a tireless patriot and then began crying uncontrollably.

In Iran-contra, North and three other aides to former President Ronald Reagan's aides were accused of defrauding the government by diverting money from the secret sale of weapons to Iran to the Nicaraguan contras at a time when U.S. aid to the rebels was banned.

